



S T A R K C O U N T Y
BAR JOURNAL

VOLUME 31 ■ NUMBER 1

JANUARY 2025



Thomas M. Bernabei



John D. Morris



William G. Williams



Larry A. Zink



Michael P. Zirpolo, Jr.

Congratulations to our 50-Year Honorees in 2025!

SCBA January 2025 Office Schedule

- Jan. 1st OFFICE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF
NEW YEAR'S DAY
- Jan. 2nd 12:00 NOON Community Involvement
Committee Meeting
- Jan. 6th 3:30 PM Bankruptcy Committee Meeting
- Jan. 7th 12:00 NOON SCBA 125th Celebration
Committee Meeting
- Jan. 8th 11:30 AM Family Law Committee Meeting
at Bender's Tavern
- Jan. 9th 9:00 AM Bar Applicant Interviews
- Jan. 9th 12:00 NOON Legal Aid/Pro Bono
Committee Meeting
- Jan. 13th 12:00 NOON Lawyer Referral Service
Committee Meeting
- Jan. 13th 4:00 PM Disputed Fee Committee Meeting
- Jan. 14th 12:00 NOON Elder Law Committee Meeting
- Jan. 15th 12:00 NOON Law Day Committee Meeting
- Jan. 15th 4:00 PM Executive Committee Meeting
- Jan. 20th OFFICE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY
- Jan. 21st 3:45 PM Grievance Committee Meeting
- Jan. 23rd 12:00 NOON Military & Veterans Affairs
Committee Meeting
- Jan. 27th 3:30 PM SCBA 125th Celebration
Committee Meeting



Reminder: A - L!
Complete your CLE by Dec. 31, 2025

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

Angela T. Vagotis, Bar President
Tina McCort, Executive Director & Editor
Chris Diaz, Bookkeeper & Editor

BAR OFFICE PHONE 330-453-0685 • E-MAIL ADDRESS
BAR OFFICE FAX 330-453-0180 • SCB@starkctybar.com
www.StarkCtyBar.com

2025 CLE Seminars

January 31, 2025 2025 Criminal Law Seminar
SCBA Conference Room
See Pg. 4

Mark Your Calendars - Details to Come

March 19, 2025 2025 Municipal Court Seminar
SCBA Conference Room

April 2, 2025 2025 Family Law Seminar
SCBA Conference Room

April 4, 2025 29th Annual White-Williams
Bankruptcy Institute
Hartville Kitchen

April 30, 2025 2025 Law Day Seminar
Kent State Professional Conference Ctr.

Elder Law Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 14, 2025 – 12:00 NOON
Live Interactive Webinar

Aaron Kempen, Senior Relationship Manager, Krause
Financial, will present “**How to Handle Tricky Assets in
Medicaid Planning: Retirement Accounts and Non-
Compliant Annuities.**”

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 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

Happy New Year

This new year ushers in the anniversary of the Stark County Bar Association. Yes, our organization has been in existence 125 years. Having been formed in July 1900, with J. J. Clark serving as the first President. We are so fortunate that they had the forethought to keep a journal which has been preserved. We have had 102 attorneys serve as President of our organization since its inception. In reviewing the list of past presidents, the earliest name I remember is Dan Belden who served as president from 1962-63. I would really like to know who in our organization recalls prior presidents and how far back does that go. Does anyone know who J. J. Clark was? Do you know anything about J. J. Clark that you could share with us. If so, please reach out to me or Tina.

In celebrating the 125th, we have had organizational meetings for the past year. Law Week this year will be extra special as we will be opening the courthouse for tours on First Friday, May 2nd. Kristen Moore has graciously agreed to chair the event. We are also working on some other events and will announce those soon. We always welcome additional committee members so contact Tina if you would like to be a part of this historical anniversary.

Well in my December newsletter I spoke about how important it is to gather with friends and family and that certainly happened at our Holiday Party. We had an awesome attendance, and I could feel the energy in the air. I must say that much of the energy came from all the young people present. I will not mention names, but I was not far behind the top of the list of senior attorneys present. I have never been so close to the top of the list. Yikes!!



Seriously, I could not have been happier to see our young members mingling, dancing, and having a great time. You truly are the future of our organization and the legal community of our county. Thank you for your presence and support.



Angela T. Vagotis
President, Stark County Bar Association

Thank you to Judge Farmer and Judge Haupt for chairing the event and planning a great party. The photo booth definitely had activity and there are many funny pictures floating around out there.

With the new year also comes the presentation of the 2025 Honorary Members of the Stark County Bar Association. These distinguished lawyers have served our profession and community for 50 years. Congratulations! 2025 Honorary Members: Thomas M. Bernabei, John D. Morris, William G. Williams, Larry A. Zink, and Michael P. Zirpolo, Jr..

I had the honor to present Judge Park and Judge James with a plaque from our organization containing a resolution summarizing all their contributions to our organization, our profession and the Stark County community for their judicial service. We wish them well deserved time off to spend time with their families and hopefully pursuing all the things they previously did not have time to do.

Thank you, Magistrates Andrea Scassa and Christy Pierson and their Community Involvement Committee, for all their work for our Adopt a Family project.

(continued on next page)



This year we provided presents for a family of five. Thank you to all the members for your donations.



Finally, the 2025 Judicial Performance Polls will be sent out by Election Buddy in early January, and we encourage your participation in the poll. Your input, via the polls, are utilized by the Judiciary Committee in performing their work.



Wishing you and your families a healthy, happy New Year!

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Pegasis Farms - December 7th



Andrea Bartos, Aletha Carver, Jamie Minor and Jack Minor.



Derek McClowry, Christy Pierson, Judge Natalie Haupt, Campbell Haupt & Shelley Sprang.

2025 LAW WEEK



Theme: The Constitution's Promise: Out of Many, One

The SCBA has a rich tradition of reaching out into the community with educational programs and activities for citizens of all ages, especially during Law Week – which here in Stark County spans over a period of one week, Monday, April 28th – May 2nd, 2025.

The Constitution enshrines our collective responsibility to one another, and the 2025 Law Day theme urges us to take pride in a Constitution that bridges our differences to bring us together as a united nation. Our civic lives tie us together as one “We”, whether through legislative efforts that serve the common good, through military service, or by working together, every day, to fulfill the promise of E pluribus unum, or “Out of many, one.”

The program will include various activities, such as: Liberty Bell Award, Moot Court Competition, Poster & Essay Contest, Digital Media Contest, Televised Ask-A-Lawyer Program and “Why I Want To Become A Lawyer” Essay Contest. We are holding our annual Law Day Luncheon on April 30, 2025 and as we celebrate the SCBA’s 125th Anniversary, we are planning a Stark County Courthouse Open House with tours on First Friday, May 2nd. Mark your calendars now!

Stay tuned for more details through the upcoming months. All contests will be posted on our website. If you are a SCBA member and you are interested in volunteering for an activity, please contact Bar Office (330-453-0685).

2025 Dues Bills Have Been Mailed ...

What Is The Value of SCBA Membership?

CLE Seminars	\$360 Annual Savings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced Rates for Members! (12 hrs/yr.) • Annual Savings can Exceed Dues 	
Stark County Bar Journal	\$20.00 Value
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FREE to Members • FREE Business Card Size Ad for Three Months (business related) 	
Mailing Labels	\$150.00 Value
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member and Non-member labels in alphabetical or zip code order. 	
Conference Room	Up to a \$60.00 Value
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members may use a conference room once a month at no charge. 	
Total Savings \$590.00!!	
On-Line Legal Directory	Marketing Your Membership
Lawyer Referral Service.....	Grow Your Practice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Client Referrals 	
Public Speaking Opportunities	Great Value
Member Committees	Substantive & Service Oriented
Networking & Congeniality	Professional & Social Events
Professional Growth.....	PRICELESS!

Stark County Bar Association



2025 CRIMINAL LAW SEMINAR Friday, January 31, 2025 – SCBA Conference Room

- 8:45 A.M. REGISTRATION - Coffee, water and donuts provided.
- 9:00 A.M. IMMIGRATION ISSUES AND CRIMINAL LAW
Anthony Wolters, Esq.
- 9:45 A.M. U.S. AND OHIO SUPREME COURT CASE LAW UPDATE
Russ Bensing, Esq.
Cuyahoga County Criminal Defense Lawyers Association
- 10:45 A.M. BREAK
- 11:00 A.M. TIPS FROM THE BENCH
The Honorable Taryn Heath
The Honorable Frank Forchione
The Honorable Kristin Farmer
The Honorable Chryssa Hartnett
The Honorable Natalie Haupt
Stark County Court of Common Pleas
- 12:15 P.M. ADJOURN



2025 Criminal Law 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 member's price.

Do you prefer to receive the seminar materials via E-mail 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.

NEW MEMBERS

Rebecca Mutigli, Esq.

Stark County Prosecutor's Office
110 Central Plaza South
Suite 510

Canton, OH 44702

Phone: (330) 451-7897

Email: rlmutigli@starkcountyohio.gov

Tyler R. Speer, Esq.

Plakas Mannos
200 Market Ave., North, Suite 300
Canton, OH 44702

Phone: (330) 455-6112

Email: tspeer@lawlion.com

Amanda Grace Krochka, Esq.

Houston Reed, LLC
401 Tuscarawas St., West, Suite 201
Canton, OH 44702

Phone: (330) 451-2050

Email: amanda@houstonreed.com

Mary Katherine McHugh, Esq.

Houston Reed, LLC
401 Tuscarawas St., West, Suite 201
Canton, OH 44702

Phone: (330) 451-2050

Email: marykate@houstonreed.com

Mary Catherine Melton, Esq.

2014 Champions Gateway
Third Floor - Office #338
Canton, OH 44708

Phone: (330) 575-7752

Email: mcathymelton@mcm.law

Jared N. Williams, Esq.

Summit County Prosecutor's Office
650 Dan Street
Akron, OH 44310

Phone: (330) 643-5434

Email: jnwilliams@prosecutor.summitoh.net

Haley J. Bonnot-Orr, Esq.

Black McCuskey
4505 Stephen Circle, N.W., Suite 200
Canton, OH 44718

Phone: (330) 456-8341

Email: hbonnot@bmsa.com

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Ashley G. Kimmel, Esq.

Stark County Prosecutor's Office
110 Central Plaza South, Suite 510
Canton, OH 44702

Phone: (330) 451-7935

Email: agkimmel@starkcountyohio.gov

PROFESSIONAL VIDEO SERVICE

(SERVING THE STARK COUNTY LEGAL COMMUNITY SINCE 1982)

BOB AMAN - VIDEOGRAPHER

SCHEDULE YOUR NEXT VIDEO DEPOSITION AT:

www.provideoservice.com

email - bob@provideoservice.com
ph. 330-493-4300 fx. 330-493-4660

Exploring Legislative History

To effectively research Ohio legislative history, begin by consulting the **Ohio General Code** or the **Ohio Revised Code (ORC)**, both are readily available at the Law Library. Members can also search the ORC online via our digital catalog. Within the Law Library, you'll find the **Revised Statutes**, covering the years 1880 to 1910, as well as the **Statutes of Ohio**, which span from 1788 to 1833. For a comprehensive understanding of Ohio's legislative timeline, the progression of titles is as follows: **Statutes of Ohio [1788-1833] - Revised Statutes [1880-1910] - Ohio General Code [1910-1952] - Ohio Revised Code (ORC) [1953-present]**.

You can find prior versions of the code via the "History" or "Credits" section underneath the text of the code section. By checking the session laws listed in the "History" or "Credits" you can see what changes the legislature made to the statute.

Next, utilize the Law Library and internet to find different versions of legislative history documents. As a Law Library Member, bills and legislative historical documents can be found on **Westlaw** or **Lexis**. Both databases include documents from as early as 2000.

Another great resource is **Ohio History Connection**, this database has access to files beginning from 1803 to 2020. For LSC Analysis, the **Ohio Legislative Service Commission** has reports from 2008 to present.

News articles are another great resource for understanding legislation actions and developments. Akron Legal News and other local newspapers may contain articles discussing legislation.

The Ohio Legislature is a great resource for keeping up to date with current and future legislature. The website includes schedules, status reports, acts, and district maps. They also have an archive going back to 1997.

The **Ohio Judicial Review** is another great resource, they send out a bi-weekly legislative newsletter and summarize pending or enacted legislation.

To access the **ORC** on the **Law Library's online catalog** visit: <https://lexisdsl.com/library/cocll/set/1947589>

Visit the **Ohio General Assembly's** archives at: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/search>

Committee Bills and Files: <https://ohiohistory.libguides.com/c.php?g=708187&p=5051925>

The Ohio Legislative Service Commission (LSC Reports): <https://www.lsc.ohio.gov/publications/monthly-agency-reports/2008>

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



Milligan Pusateri
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

We Will Try Your Case
229 Years Combined Trial Experience

Richard S. Milligan
Paul J. Pusateri

Anthony E. Brown
Thomas R. Himmelspach
Merle D. "Trace" Evans

Kimberly K. Wyss
Jack B. Cooper
Jenna M. McKean

Daniel D. Eisenbrei
Brandon O. Trent

4684 Douglas Circle NW | Canton, OH 44718 | (330) 526-0770

EXCLUSIVE ATTORNEY SERVICES

With our superior track record and reasonable rates, we commit our resources to the reduction of your workload and insuring your continued success.

- Financial asset tracking, discovery & verification
- Corporate & personal investigations
- Court expert testifying



SACS CONSULTING & INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES, INC.

Timothy Dimoff, President

Phone: 330-255-1101

Toll Free: 1-888-722-7937

www.sacsconsulting.com

www.TimothyDimoff.com

520 South Main Street, Suite 2516
Akron, OH 44311

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
SlimansPrintery.com



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

Bixler | Moore LLC

Estate Planning • Elder Law

"We Take Care of Your Mom."

330.491.2222

318 E Main St, Louisville, OH 44641

4505 Stephen Cir NW, Ste. 101, Canton, OH 44718



www.NursingHomePlan.com

Timothy J. Moore
Estate Attorney

Jason R. Pugh
Estate Attorney

Morgan A. Barth
Estate Attorney

Jennifer L. Brown
Estate Attorney

Edgar M. Moore
Estate Attorney

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.

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*

Charlie

COURIER SERVICE

Interoffice Mail
Post Office Runs
Court Fillings
And More



330-590-5467

CharlieCourier.com
Serving Stark County
For Over 20 Years!



ATTORNEYS MEDIATION SERVICES, LLC
www.attorneysmediationservices.com

DOUGLAS N. GODSHALL, ESQ.
dngodshall@gmail.com

213 Market Ave., North
Suite 300
Canton, Ohio 44702
fax: 330-453-9008

phone: 330-453-6344
toll free: 866-453-6344
cell: 330-603-5942

SAND SEBOLT & WERNOW LPA

PATENT, TRADEMARK, COPYRIGHT LAW
& RELATED LITIGATION

4940 Munson St. NW, Suite 1100
Canton, Ohio 44718

330.244.1174
www.sswip.com

Special Needs Trusts & Trust Reformations

Jennifer L. Lile, CELA
Attorney at Law
jlile@kwgd.com

Certified Elder Law Attorney by the National Elder Law Foundation

KWGD KRUGLIAK
WILKINS
GRIFFITHS &
DOUGHERTY
attorneys at law CO., L.P.A.



4775 Munson Street NW, Canton
330.497.0700
KWGD.com



PROBATE BONDS

Guardianship—Estate—Trust



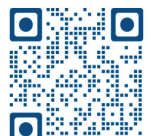
ROBERT L. NICHOLAS
Insurance & Financial Services

2539 Cleveland Ave NW
Canton OH 44709

330-454-6135 Fax 330-454-9459

bwalsh@rlnicholasins.com
rnicholas@rlnicholasins.com
khaltom@rlnicholasins.com

- * PROMPT TURNAROUND
- * Professional, Confidential & Courteous
- * Necessary Forms available via fax or email
- * Bond delivery available



BEACON TITLE AGENCY

AT BEACON TITLE, SERVICE ISN'T
EVERYTHING.....IT'S THE ONLY THING!

Over 37 Years Experience!

Real Estate Title & Escrow Services

4505 Stephen Cir NW, Ste 104
Canton, OH 44718

Phone 330.492.3090
docs@beacontitle.com

2,511 SQ.FT. & 3,179 SQ.FT. CLASS "A" OFFICE SUITES

4601 EVERHARD RD NW, JACKSON TWP., OHIO 44718

FOR LEASE



2,511 Sq. ft. partially furnished class "A" ground floor office suite for lease with three (3) private offices, reception/waiting room area, conference room, bullpen area with cubicles, one (1) ADA restroom, storage room, and a kitchenette with a fridge.

New roof 2021, new asphalt and new LED lighting in and out.

Convenient Belden Village location between Everhard & Dressler in Jackson Township (no personal or corporate income tax) along prestigious Munson St. Ground floor unit with plenty of parking in professionally managed building.

Other tenants include Erie Insurance, Ohio Retina Association and David J. Simmons & Associates

For more information, please contact:

Spencer Hartung 330.936.0276

Wick Hartung 330.495.0601

FOR LEASE: \$12.95 PER SQ.FT. NNN PLUS UTILITIES



4065 Fulton Dr NW, Canton

330.498.4400

putmanproperties.com

*Call our team of professionals
for all your real estate needs!*



Historic

Canton Daily News Building

Downtown Canton

Canton Daily News Building

Tel: 330-454-7411

**For Lease 1 and 2
room (and more!)
suites starting at \$450
per month**

*Included in Rent: Electric, Heat,
Water. Shared Conference Room*

Convenient, just a 2 block walk
from Stark Courthouse and
Federal Courthouse.

Stark County Bar Association
 400 Courtyard Centre Building
 116 Cleveland Ave., N.W.
 Canton, Ohio 44702-1728

PRSR STD
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 CANTON, OH
 PERMIT NO. 654

50 YEARS

LOOKING BACK... 1975 TRIVIA, FUN FACTS & HISTORY

March Bar Exam.	Seven (7) passed Exam
July Bar Exam.	Nineteen (19) passed Exam
US President	Gerald Ford
Top Song	Love Will Keep Us Together (Captain and Tennille)
Top Movie	Jaws and The Rocky Horror Picture Show
Top TV Shows	All in the Family; Rich Man, Poor Man
Most Popular Toys	Pet Rocks, Mr. Potato Head
Average Income per year	\$14,100
Average Cost of New Buick Regal	\$4,819
Gallon of Gas53 cents
Cost of First-Class Stamp13 cents
World Series Champions	Cincinnati Reds
NBA Champions	Golden State Warriors
Superbowl IX Champions	Pittsburgh Steelers
Average cost of an ad during Superbowl	\$107,000
NCAA Football Champions	Oklahoma
1975 Quote.	“Two all-beef patties, special sauce, lettuce, cheese, pickles, onions on a sesame seed bun.”



Major Events of 1975:

Hungarian sculptor and professor of architecture Ernő Rubik applied for a patent for his “Magic Cube” invention, which later became known as a Rubik’s cube; Conservative party leadership election was held in Great Britain, and the Conservatives chose Margaret Thatcher as their new leader; U.S. House of Representatives passed a \$21.3 billion “anti-recession tax-cut bill”; construction began on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS), which was being built to carry “billions of barrels of North Slope oil to the port of Valdez”; Microsoft was founded as a partnership between Bill Gates and Paul Allen to develop and sell computer software; On May 7, President Ford announced an end to the Vietnam War; On September 14, Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton became the first American-born saint; On September 22, President Ford “survived a second assassination attempt”, this time by Sara Jane Moore of San Francisco; On November 20, Ronald Reagan announced that he would seek the 1976 Republican presidential nomination.