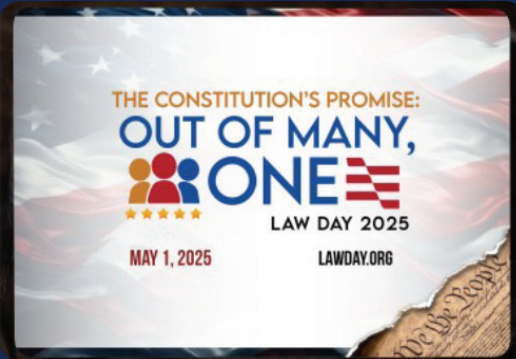




# STARK COUNTY BAR JOURNAL

VOLUME 31 ■ NUMBER 6

JUNE 2025



## 2025 LAW DAY SPONSORS

Baker, Dublikar • Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs, LLC  
Cleaver & Sokolowski, LLC • Janet Dutt, Esq.  
Day, Ketterer Alumni  
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**TELEVISED ASK-A-LAWYER  
MASSILLON MUNICIPAL COURT**



**SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO  
SENATOR KIRK SCHURING**



**LIBERTY BELL WINNER  
REVEREND DON ACKERMAN**



**OHIO JUSTICE BUS  
"FREE LEGAL ADVICE"**



**LAW DAY LUNCHEON  
PROGRAM - MOOT COURT  
COMPETITION WINNERS**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**United States District Court  
for the Northern District of Ohio**



**TOUR DE COURTS**



**COMMUNITY LEGAL AID  
PRO BONO WINNERS  
ATTORNEY ROHR-METZGER & ATTORNEY BENZO**



# SCBA June 2025 Office Schedule

June 2 <sup>nd</sup>	3:30 PM	SCBA 125th Celebration Committee Meeting
June 5 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 AM	Bar Applicant Interviews
June 5 <sup>th</sup>	12:00 NOON	Community Involvement Committee Meeting
June 9 <sup>th</sup>	4:00 PM	Disputed Fee Committee Meeting
June 17 <sup>th</sup>	3:45 PM	Grievance Committee Meeting
June 18 <sup>th</sup>	12:00 NOON	Law Day Committee Meeting Bender's
June 18 <sup>th</sup>	4:00 PM	Executive Committee Meeting
June 19 <sup>th</sup>	OFFICE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF JUNETEENTH DAY	
June 23 <sup>rd</sup>	3:30 PM	SCBA 125th Celebration Committee Meeting
June 25 <sup>th</sup>	11:45 AM	Installation Luncheon & Professional Conduct Seminar Double Tree by Hilton Canton Downtown
June 26 <sup>th</sup>	12:00 NOON	Family Law Committee Planning Meeting Courtroom 6

## 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

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

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

## 2025 CLE Seminars

June 25, 2025	Installation Luncheon & 2025 Professional Conduct Seminar Double Tree by Hilton Canton Downtown See Pg. 9
July 18, 2025	2025 Criminal Law Seminar Video Replay SCBA Conference Room See Pg. 10

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS DETAILS TO COME

Sept. 25, 2025	2025 Estate Planning & Elder Law Symposium Kent State Professional Conference Center
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**Reminder: A - I!**  
**Complete your CLE by Dec. 31, 2025**

## 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.



## - Save The Date -

### SCBA's 125th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, September 13, 2025	Exhibit at Cyrus Custom Framing "Lawyers Do More Than Practice Law" Featuring art/photography/mixed media/reception included
Friday, November 7, 2025	12 Angry Women Play with Reception
Saturday, November 8, 2025	12 Angry Women Play

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

Law Week kicked off with the Televised Ask-A-Lawyer Program in Massillon Municipal Court. Judge Elum created this program over 20 years ago and he, along with our Law Day chairs, Todd Evans and Dick Kuhn, have attended to it. This year was no different. I appreciate being invited to participate, along with Judge Fichter and Magistrate Scassa. In speaking with Judge Elum, so much has changed since the early years. The courtroom used to be full of spectators, mostly students. Unfortunately, Judge Elum can no longer get schools to bring students to attend the program, due to other educational demands. It has become an information/educational program broadcast on Massillon Cable TV to let the audience know about our Law Week activities. A big thank you to Massillon Cable for making this a priority for the viewers. We were also grateful to have 4 seniors from Massillon High School in our jury box. They brought great questions. Judge Elum, thank you for all you have done for our Bar Association, and particularly this program.

On Tuesday, April 28th the Moot Court Competition took place at the 5th District Court of Appeals. Thank you to the judges and staff for again allowing this competition to be held in your court. Thanks to Cari Fusco Evans, Cortney Morgan and Kelsey Kochman for judging the competition. Thanks to Lake High School teacher, Teresa Miller for again having her students participate in this competition. This year the winners of the competition were also asked to conduct their arguments again at our Law Day luncheon on Wednesday.

Next up, the Ohio Justice Bus came to downtown Canton, and we were set up outside at Market and 2nd Street to meet with people who needed legal advice. Thanks to Dick Kuhn, Randy McFarren and Marie Moore from Community Legal Aid, for volunteering your time and legal expertise. We also had Todd Evans and David Butz at the help desk in the Domestic Relations Court and they were busy also helping people through their legal situation.

The Law Day luncheon was a highlight of the week being that we have so many students, school age through high school who have participated in the



**Angela T. Vagotis**  
*President, Stark County Bar Association*

various contests that are offered. It is nice to see the parents with their children attend the Awards Ceremony and then to be present at the luncheon sitting with a current judge. Do not underestimate how much the parents and students enjoy this seating arrangement. We were fortunate for them to also witness the Moot Court winners arguing their case.

The Law Day luncheon was also the appropriate time to honor Senator Kirk Schuring, posthumously. His wife Darlene and son Derrick were present to receive the Resolution. If you are not aware, Senator Schuring was a friend to the Stark County Bar Association and helped us in many ways retain our Notary Education program, which is a major source of revenue for our organization.

### 2024-2025 Law Day Committee

Todd W. Evans, Chairman  
Richard R. Kuhn, Vice-Chairman

Teresa P. Cusma  
Honorable Edward J. Elum  
Kelsey C. Kochman  
Sara E. Strattan

*(continued on next page)*

## 2025 LAW DAY SPONSORS

Baker, Dublikar  
Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs, LLC  
Cleaver & Sokolowski, LLC  
Janet Dutt, Esq.  
Day, Ketterer Alumni  
Krugliak, Wilkins, Griffiths & Dougherty Co., L.P.A.  
Milligan Pusateri  
Plakas Mannos  
Schulman, Roth & Associates Co., L.P.A.

Following the luncheon, we were again fortunate to have Fifth District Court of Appeals Judges Baldwin, King, Popham, Montgomery and Gormley, along with their staff, Aletha Carver, David Wigginton and Angela Stone, present our CLE. The CLE was well attended reflecting that our bar members are interested in getting to know the judges and the courts' operation and potential changes. We certainly appreciate the time you gave us.

Tour de Courts took place on Thursday where a 100 students toured all the downtown Canton courts. Thank you to all the judges and court personnel who make this possible. We recognize how this can interrupt the courts' schedule; however, the students really enjoy the tour, and it is inspiring to many of them.

Finally, we had the Courthouse Open House for First Friday. Many people made the event possible, but Kristen Moore was the person who stepped up and agreed to take charge of the event. As many know, there are people who will gladly "help", which

of course we need, but we always need a leader! Kristen enjoyed the Open House so much in 2016 for the Bicentennial that it was a reason she agreed to lead the opening again this year. Of course, without our Common Pleas Judges Farmer, Forchione, Hartnett, Haupt and Heath, along with Court Administrator Cortney Morgan, and the judge's staff, we would not have been able to make the Courthouse available to the community for touring. Also, thanks to our Stark County Sheriff's deputies for providing security and the maintenance staff who worked extra hours for the event.



On May 28th, I visited Canton Municipal Court and presented Judge Dennis Barr with his first judicial robe, which is always an honor.

(continued on next page)

## Thank you to our 125th Anniversary Courthouse Open House Sponsors:

Baker, Dublikar  
Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs, LLC  
Krugliak, Wilkins, Griffiths & Dougherty Co., L.P.A.  
Wayne C. Kyhos, Esq.

Milligan Pusateri  
Mills, Mills, Fiely & Lucas  
Thomas P. Moushey, Esq.  
Schulman, Roth & Associates Co., L.P.A.





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You cannot serve as president of this organization without having countless numbers of people helping at every turn. This was evident in all the Law Week activities and throughout the year. The committees of our bar association implement our programming and are the face of our organization to the public. We have many active committees who serve our community and our membership. We are fortunate to have chair people who are committed to their committee and spend many volunteer hours to memorialize our members who have died; honor our Military and Veterans, host a social event; conduct disciplinary and fee dispute investigations; organize community fundraising for us all to participate in; help the public obtain their lapsed driver's license or expunge their records; interview judicial candidates and new bar applicants; sponsor CLE's for their practice areas of Bankruptcy, Elder Law, Family Law and Probate Law; work tirelessly for the bar to retain our Notary Education program to keep our organization sustainable; keep us running with our technology and social media platforms, transforming our Lawyer Referral program to better serve the needs of our attorneys and the public; awarding scholarships to those de-

serving; attending to law practices that did not have a succession plan; gathering our Senior Lawyers for camaraderie and wisdom and finally, nurturing our Young Lawyers, as this is all done, with them in mind, to continue this 125th year young organization.

Tina McCort is the person that keeps this organization together, organized, productive, professional and inclusive. Every president gives the glory to Tina as being the one constant that we can rely on to know what we are doing, how to do it, when to do it and with whom to do it. The role of president changes every July but fortunately we have had Tina leading us for 25 years. I know I am grateful to her for her leadership, kindness, and patience. Thank you to the Executive board for all your contributions to the organization, to all the past presidents who have answered the call numerous times this year and in years past, and to the membership for selecting me to lead for this period of time. Beverly Proctor-Donald will lead us into the second half of the 125th Anniversary of our organization and I look forward to her serving as our President.



## **DO YOU KNOW WHO IS IN THIS PORTRAIT?**

Located in the  
Honorable Natalie Haupt's  
Courtroom #101  
Stark County Common Pleas Court

# 2025 PAST PRESIDENT'S LUNCHEON

May 6, 2025 • Bender's Restaurant



**FRONT ROW:** Gust Callas (Current Treasurer), Andrea M. Scassa (Current Second Vice President), Jonathan E. Morris (Current Secretary), Shawn O. Robertson (2009-2010), Angela T. Vagotis (Current President), Rosemary G. Rubin (1991-1992), Hon. Taryn L. Heath (2014-2015).

**2ND ROW:** Ralph F. Dublikar (2002-2003), Aletha M. Carver (2021-2022), William W. Emley, Sr. (2006-2007), John R. Werren (1982-1983).

**BACK ROW:** Richard S. Milligan (1996-1997), J. Fred Stergios (1993-1994), Hon. Jim D. James (2005-2006), Hon. C. Roland Centrone (2015-2016), Dennis J. Fox (1992-1993).

## 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:

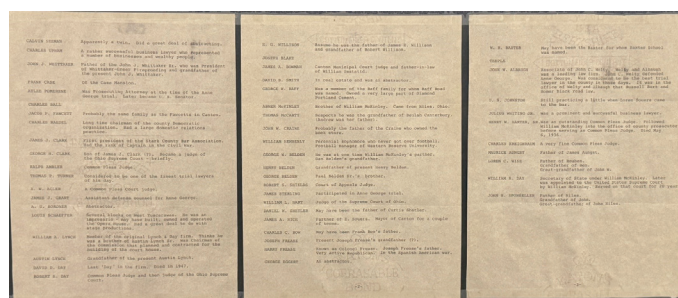
1. Notary Name Stamp and Embossed Seal (to be used with ink pad)..... (\$46.75 + \$2.65 tax) = **\*\$49.40**
2. Notary Self-Ink Stamp with seal (includes name stamp & notary seal in one) ..... (\$42.50 + \$2.37 tax) = **\*\$44.87**
3. Notary Self-Ink Stamp without seal (name stamp only in self-ink) ..... (\$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*





In celebration of our 125th Anniversary above is a picture that hangs in our office of members from many years ago. When we turned the picture over we found the following:



Reads as follows:

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| CALVIN SEEMAN     | Apparently a twin. Did a great deal of abstracting.   |
| CHARLES UPHAM     | A rather successful business lawyer who represented a number of businesses and wealthy people.  |
| JOHN J. WHITTAKER | Father of the John J. Whittaker Sr. who was President of Whittaker-Greer Fireproofing and grandfather of the present John J. Whittaker. |
| FRANK CASE        | Of the Case Mansion.  |
| ATLEE POMERENE    | Was Prosecuting Attorney at the time of the Anne George trial. Later became U.S. Senator.   |
| CHARLES BALL -    |   |
| JACOB P. FAWCETT  | Probably the same family as the Fawcetts in Canton.   |
| CHARLES RAEDEL    | Long time chairman of the county Democratic organization. Had a large domestic relations practice.                                      |
| JAMES J. CLARK    | First president of the Stark County Bar Association. Had the rank of Captain in the Civil War.  |
| GEORGE H. CLARK   | Son of James J. Clark (?). Became a Judge of the Ohio Supreme Court - briefly.  |

(continued on next page)



RALPH AMBLER	Common Pleas Judge.
THOMAS P. TURNER	Considered to be one of the finest trial lawyers of his day.
A.W. AGLER	A Common Pleas Court Judge.
JAMES J. GRANT	Assistant defense counsel for Ann George.
A. U. BORDNER	Abstractor.
LOUIS SCHAEFFER	Several blocks on West Tuscarawas. He was an impresario – may have built, owned and operated the Opera House. Had a great deal to do with stage productions.
WILLIAM A. LYNCH	Member of the original Lynch & Day firm. Thinks he was a brother of Austin Lynch Sr. Was Chairman of the commission that planned and contracted for the building of the court house.
AUSTIN LYNCH	Grandfather of the present Austin Lynch.
DAVID D. DAY	Last “Day” in the firm. Died in 1947.
ROBERT H. DAY	Common Pleas Judge and then judge of the Ohio Supreme Court.
E.G. WILLISON	Assume he was the father of James E. Willison and grandfather of Robert Willison.
JOSEPH BLAKE -	
JAMES A. BOWMAN	Canton Municipal Court judge and father-in-law of William Umstatted.
DAVID B. SMITH	In real estate and was an abstractor.
GEORGE W. RAFF	Was a member of the Raff family for whom Raff Road was named. Owned a very large part of Diamond Portland Cement.
ABNER MCKINLEY	Brother of William McKinley. Came from Niles, Ohio.
THOMAS MCCARTY	Suspects he was the grandfather of Beulah Canterbury. (Andrew was her father).
JOHN W. CRAINE	Probably the father of the Craine who owned the book store.
WILLIAM HEMBERLY	Perennial sophomore who never got over football. Football manager of Western Reserve University.
GEORGE W. BELDEN	He was at one time William McKinley’s partner. Dan Belden’s grandfather.
HENRY BELDEN	Grandfather of present Henry Belden.
GEORGE BELDEN	Paul Belden Sr.’s brother.
ROBERT S. SHIELDS	Court of Appeals Judge.
JAMES STERLING	Participated in Ann George trial.
WILLIAM L. HART	Judge of the Supreme Court of Ohio.
DANIEL W. SHETLER	May have been the father of Curtis Shetler.
JAMES A. RICE	Partner of E. Souers. Mayor of Canton for a couple of terms.
CHARLES C. BOW	May have been Frank Bow’s father.
JOSEPH FREASE	Present Joseph Frease’s grandfather (?).
HARRY FREASE	Known as Colonel Frease. Joseph Frease’s father. Very active Republican. In the Spanish American War.
GEORGE EGGERT	An Abstractor.
W. R. BAXTER	May have been the Baxter for whom Baxter School was named.
TEEPLE -	
JOHN W. ALBAUGH	Associate of John C. Welty. Welty and Albaugh was a leading law firm. John C. Welty defended Ann George. Was considered to be the best trial lawyer in the county in those days. It was in the office of Welty and Albaugh that Russell Burt and Homer Black read law.
U. S. JOHNSTON	Still practicing a little when Loren Souers came to the bar.
JULIUS WHITING JR.	Was a prominent and successful business lawyer.
HENRY W. HARTER, SR.	Was an outstanding Common Pleas Judge. Followed William McKinley into the office of county prosecutor before serving as Common Pleas Judge. Died May 6, 1936.
CHARLES KREIGHBAUM	A very fine Common Pleas Judge.
MAURICE AUNGST	Father of James Aungst.
LOREN C. WISE	Father of Reuben. Grandfather of Ben. Great-grandfather of John W.
WILLIAM R. DAY	Secretary of State under William McKinley. Later was appointed to the United States Supreme Court by William McKinley. Served on that court for 20 years.
JOHN H. SPONSELLER	Father of Niles. Grandfather of John. Great-grandfather of John Niles.



**WANT MORE CLIENTS?  
WANT TO GET YOUR NAME OUT TO MORE PEOPLE?  
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP YOUR COMMUNITY?**

**WHY NOT JOIN THE SCBA LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE?**

- The Lawyer Referral Service is a benefit to all members of the Stark County Bar Association. The LRS can be a help to you for building and/or increasing your law practice, whether you are a solo, small, medium, or large-size firm.
- Our community looks to and trusts the Stark County Bar Association for help in their search for a reputable specialty attorney to put their confidence in for their legal needs both now and in the future.
- When a potential client contacts the Bar Association, our LRS directs them to one of our LRS attorneys. You, as a member, then contact them to schedule their ½ hour consultation. The client pays you a \$30 consultation fee. This ½ hour consultation gives both of you the opportunity to discuss their situation and for the arrangement of any additional services. The consultation fee is yours. You would return 10% of any further services beyond \$100 to the LRS.

Here are a couple testimonials:

Attorney Kahlenberg: “I highly recommend all SCBA members to participate in the Lawyer Referral Service program. Especially newer practitioners who may be looking to generate new clients or get their name out in the community. Some of the most rewarding experiences in my practice have come through working with SCBA referrals. The clients are most often truly grateful for the opportunity to work with an attorney who will listen, evaluate the issue, and provide fair recommendations – even if the answer is “there’s no legal remedy.” This is a vital tool for our legal community to provide access to justice and serve members of the community who may not always know how to go about finding an attorney in a particular practice area.”

Attorney Slagle: “I became a member of the Lawyer Referral Service my first year in practice and have been a member for all 45 years of my practice. The good will generated in giving someone needed advice for a nominal charge (most often waived) is invaluable. It also serves to benefit the public and frequently results in a favorable reaction from the person seeking help. Occasionally, the referrals generated a nice fee for which I gladly paid the 10%.”

In 2018, the SCBA Lawyer Referral Service received a percentage fee check for a referral in the amount of \$23,333.33, which was 10% of the fees received by the attorney.

**INTERESTED?**

An application to join is available by contacting the LRS Secretary at 330-453-0686 or [scbareferral@starkctybar.com](mailto:scbareferral@starkctybar.com).

To learn more, visit our website at [www.starkctybar.com](http://www.starkctybar.com).

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# ***Congratulations To Our New Officers And Executive Committee Members***

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

President	Beverly Proctor-Donald
First Vice President	Andrea M. Scassa
Second Vice President	Jonathan E. Morris
Secretary	Cari Fusco Evans
Treasurer	Gust Callas

Newly Elected Members of the Executive Committee:

Gregory A. Beck	Melissa S. Ulrich
Jeffrey "Max" M. Haupt	Earle E. Wise, Jr.
Megan E. Starrett	

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 Wednesday, June 25th for our annual Installation Luncheon and the 2025 Professional Conduct Seminar. Please see Page 9 to make reservations.



## **125th Celebration Art Show Gala and Exhibit**

The art show gala and exhibit opening for "Lawyers Do More Than Practice Law" to be held at the Cyrus Art Gallery will kick off on the evening of Saturday, September 13, 2025. The show will run after the 13th for a number of weeks. Mark the opening event on all your calendars and please plan on attending. Invite your family, clients and friends. If you have a talent in the arts, photography or writing, furniture making, building or remodeling, music, singing, dancing, etc., contact Attorney David Herbert "Lawyers Do More Than Practice Law" Event Chairman @ [herblegal@aol.com](mailto:herblegal@aol.com) and let's get your talents on display for this celebration of the Bar's 125th year event! Complimentary refreshments will be provided for the opening event and there will be no admission charge. This should be a really great event!





# Stark County Bar Association **INSTALLATION LUNCHEON** &

## **2025 PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT SEMINAR**

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Double Tree by Hilton Canton Downtown  
320 Market Avenue South, Canton, OH 44702

- 11:45 A.M.      INSTALLATION LUNCHEON  
Magistrate Beverly Proctor-Donald, President-Elect, Officers and  
Newly Elected Executive Committee Members
- 12:45 P.M.      SEMINAR REGISTRATION
- 1:15 P.M.      ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AS IT RELATES TO ETHICS  
Joseph M. Caligiuri, Esq., Disciplinary Counsel
- 2:45 P.M.      BREAK
- 3:00 P.M.      BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT & CASE LAW UPDATE  
Aletha M. Carver, Esq., Mediator, Fifth District Court of Appeals
- 4:00 P.M.      ADJOURN



## Installation Luncheon & 2025 Professional Conduct Seminar

- ☐ Luncheon Only: \$25.00      ☐ Herb-Roasted Chicken      ☐ Baked Cod      ☐ Cavatappi Pasta  
☐ Luncheon & Seminar:

\*Members: \$100.00      Associate Members: \$87.50      Non-Members: \$162.50

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

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

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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, 2025**

**\*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, Ohio 44702-1728

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

Application approved for 2.50 Professional Conduct CLE Credit Hours.

# Stark County Bar Association



## 2025 CRIMINAL LAW SEMINAR VIDEO REPLAY

Friday, July 18, 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 Video Replay

\*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 submitted for 3.00 General CLE Credit Hours.





# CLE UPDATE!

**Take advantage of the Stark County Bar Association's  
SELF-STUDY courses through our website:  
[www.starkctybar.com](http://www.starkctybar.com)**

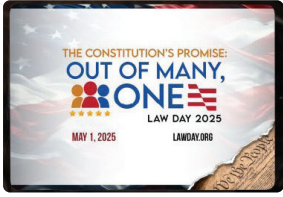
## THE FOLLOWING SELF-STUDY COURSES ARE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE:

- 2024 Criminal Law Seminar (3.25 General credit hours)
- 2024 Professional Conduct Seminar (2.5 Professional Conduct credit hours)
- 2024 Family Law Seminar (3.00 General credit hours)
- 2024 Law Day Seminar (3.00 General credit hours)
- The 28th Annual White-Williams Bankruptcy Institute (5.00 General & 1 Professional Conduct credit hour)
- 2024 Estate Planning & Elder Law Symposium (5.25 General credit hours & 1.0 Professional Conduct credit hour)
- 2024 Summertime Tech Series - Session 1: Generative AI Seminar (1.0 General credit hour)
- 2024 Summertime Tech Series - Session 2: Cyber Security Seminar (1.0 General credit hour)
- 2024 Summertime Tech Series - Session 3: Digital Forensics (1.0 General credit hour)
- 2024 Municipal Court Seminar (3.00 General credit hours)
- 2025 Criminal Law Seminar (3.00 General credit hours)
- 2025 Municipal Court Seminar (2.5 General credit hours & .50 Professional Conduct credit hour)
- 2025 Family Law Seminar (2.75 General credit hours)
- 2025 Law Day Seminar (2.5 General credit hours & .75 Professional Conduct credit hour)

SCBA's self-study courses direct link: <https://starkctybar.com/cle/cle-self-study/>

**AVAILABLE AND ACCESSIBLE ANYWHERE 24/7!**

If you have questions about our online CLE or have problems logging in, please call the Bar Office or email [CLE@starkctybar.com](mailto:CLE@starkctybar.com).



# 2025 LAW DAY AWARDS

## ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS SUMMIT MEMORIAL AWARD

**Isabel McCune** — Tuslaw High School

### Division III — Grades 11th & 12th

- 1st Place **Paige Marthey** — Tuslaw High School  
2nd Place **Isabella Yochum** — Tuslaw High School  
3rd Place **Landon Gannet** — Tuslaw High School

## POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

### Category 1 — Grades K through 2

- 1st Place **Camden Kinter** — Strausser Elementary  
2nd Place **Charlotte Kinter** — Strausser Elementary  
3rd Place **Leighton Diana** — Lake Cable Elementary

### Category 2 — Grades 3 through 5

- 1st Place **Audrianna Williams** — North Canton Intermediate  
2nd Place **Elliott Luke** — North Canton Intermediate  
3rd Place **Addison McGee** — Lake Cable Elementary

### Category 3 — Grades 6 through 8

- 1st Place **Amelia Kessler** — Individual Entry

## MOOT COURT COMPETITION

*Plyler v. Doe*, 457 U.S. 202 (1982)  
Lake High School

### APPELLANTS

- 1st Place **Brooklyn Maurer**  
2nd Place **Joseph Smart**  
3rd Place **Addison Smith**

### APPELLEES

- 1st Place **Erika Guzman**  
2nd Place **Alyssa Van Keulen**  
3rd Place **AJ Wood**

## 2025 LIBERTY BELL AWARD WINNER

**Reverend Don Ackerman**

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

**Abigail Davis** — Tiffin University

## COMMUNITY LEGAL AID PRO BONO WINNERS

**Caitlyn Benzo**  
**Nicole L. Rohr-Metzger**



## 2025 LAW WEEK ESSAY WINNER

# *"The Constitution's Promise: Out of Many, One"* **WHY I WANT TO BECOME A LAWYER**

*By Abigail Davis - Tiffin University*

### MY PATH TO JUSTICE

One case that shattered my understanding of justice was that of Derrick Jamison. In 1985, he was sentenced to death for a murder he did not commit. As he shared his story, my heart sank learning how prosecutors deliberately withheld crucial evidence that would have proven his innocence. For twenty agonizing years, Jamison woke up each morning on death row, counting days stolen from his life, before his charges were finally dismissed in 2005. You could see the pain in his eyes as he recounted the death of both his parents while he was in prison. I felt not just sympathy, but a burning resolve. His story is a constant reminder of why I must pursue justice.

My name is Abigail Davis, and I am currently a senior at Tiffin University, where I will graduate with my degree in Criminal Justice in the fall of 2025. To me, the Constitution isn't simply another historical document, it represents a sacred promise of justice, fairness and unity for all Americans. Yet through my studies and personal encounters with those like Derrick Jamison, I've witnessed how this promise remains heart-wrenchingly unfulfilled for too many. Wrongful convictions, prosecutorial misconduct, and disproportionate sentencing continue to tear families apart and devastate lives across our nation. It is the weight of these injustices that fuels my unwavering passion for the law.

For me, my passion burns from a deep commitment to justice and fairness that has only grown stronger with each injustice I've witnessed. I plan to pursue my law degree at

The Ohio State University, where I can gain not just knowledge, but the practical skills needed to stand effectively for those whose voices often go unheard. After earning my degree, I aim to practice as an attorney before eventually working toward my ultimate goal of becoming a judge who never forgets what justice looks like through the eyes of the vulnerable.

I am deeply committed to becoming a lawyer who stands in the breach between what our system promises and what it delivers. From an early age, I have been captivated by the power of law, not just as a system of order, but as a vital shield protecting the vulnerable and ensuring fairness in our society. While my ultimate goal is to serve as a judge, I understand that before I can sit on the bench, I must first dedicate myself to the legal profession. Lawyers stand as the last line of defense against injustice, and I aspire to join a profession that, at its best, holds itself to the highest ethical standards and never forgets human lives hanging in the balance of each decision.

One of the greatest tragedies in our society occurs when innocent lives are shattered by wrongful convictions. It tears at my soul to witness individuals robbed of decades for crimes they did not commit, or to see people receiving punishments that far exceed their offenses. Rather than allowing these realities to extinguish my hope, they have sparked my fierce determination to be the one to fight for them. The Constitution entrusts us with the

*(continued on next page)*



responsibility to uphold justice, and I will stand on the front lines, fighting for every person's right to fair and equal treatment under the law.

Beyond these experiences, I have been blessed to learn from the remarkable professors who have deepened my dedication to justice. Professor Curtis, a practicing lawyer, has left a mark on my heart and mind. Despite growing up surrounded by addiction, his parents struggling with substance abuse and his father and two brothers incarcerated, he refused to surrender to circumstance or to become another part of the cycle of crime. Because of educators and mentors who saw his potential when others saw only his background, he found his calling in law and has dedicated his life to making a difference. His story of resilience against overwhelming odds and his unwavering commitment to justice inspire me daily. I hope to one day serve my community with the same courage, ensuring that the law functions not just as a collection of statutes but as a living force for meaningful change in people's lives.

The Constitution represents America's most sacred promise of justice and equality for all, but wrongful convictions and systemic failures

continue to take that promise for too many of our citizens. The United States possesses an exceptional judicial system, but it is ultimately up to individuals that make up this system to ensure it serves its true purpose. Through my studies at Tiffin University and my heart-wrenching conversations with exonerees like Derrick Jamison, I have witnessed the devastating human cost when our system fails. These experiences have not weakened my resolve, they have ignited a fire within me and strengthened my commitment to fighting for true justice.

Every day, I strive to build a legal system that genuinely fulfills the promise of justice outlined in our Constitution. The faces of those who have suffered injustice, along with their stories, serve as a powerful reminder of why this work is so important. Additionally, individuals like Professor Curtis inspire me to recognize the profound significance of this profession. With the right mindset, I have the opportunity to help those facing injustice, and it fills me with excitement for what the future holds. This is my commitment. This is my purpose. This is my promise.



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## Social Committee Events

**New!! Evening with the Rubberducks \*\*Fireworks\*\***  
Friday, August 8th • Bring your staff, family and friends!

**New!! Bar Review Happy Hour - Quarterly gatherings**  
Tuesday, July 15th • 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm  
Winking Lizard (on Fulton Drive) on the Patio

**We are bringing it back!! 2025 Holiday Party**  
Friday, December 5th • Brookside Country Club



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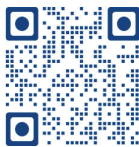
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