

STARK COUNTY BAR JOURNAL

VOLUME 31 ■ NUMBER 7

JULY 2025

2025 INSTALLATION CEREMONY WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2025

2025 - 2026 PRESIDENT MAGISTRATE BEVERLY PROCTOR-DONALD, NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS, NEWLY ELECTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS, AND CURRENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Front L TO R: Immediate Past President Angela T. Vagotis and President Magistrate Beverly Proctor-Donald **Second Row L TO R:** Melissa S. Ulrich, Megan E. Starrett, Cari Fusco Evans, Honorable Kristin G. Farmer **Back L TO R:** Jeffrey "Max" M. Haupt, Earle E. Wise, Jr., Gust Callas, Honorable Matthew P. Kreitzer, Stacey Zipay, Jonathan E. Morris, Andrea M. Scassa, Taryn A. Douglas



JOIN US Friday, August 8th at Canal Park

FOR OUR EVENING WITH THE AKRON RUBBERDUCKS.

SCBA July 2025 Office Schedule

OFFICE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF July 4th INDEPENDENCE DAY

July 10th 12:00 NOON Legal Aid/Pro Bono

Committee Meeting

July 10th 12:00 NOON Community Involvement

Committee Meeting

Disputed Fee Committee Meeting July 14th 4:00 PM

July 15th **Grievance Committee Meeting** 3:45 PM

July 16th **Executive Committee Meeting** 4:00 PM

12:00 NOON Military and Veterans Affairs July 24th

Committee Meeting

July 28th 3:30 рм SCBA 125th Celebration

Committee Meeting

The Bar Office E-Mail Addresses:

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Visit us at www.StarkCtyBar.com

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

2025 CLE Seminars

July 18, 2025 2025 Criminal Law Seminar

Video Replay

SCBA Conference Room

See Pg. 11

September 25, 2025 2025 Estate Planning & Elder Law

Symposium

Kent State Stark Conference Center

See Pgs. 12 & 13



On-Line CLE

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



Reminder: A - L!

Complete your CLE by Dec. 31, 2025

THE STARK COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION







- 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

12 Angry Women Play with Reception Friday, November 7, 2025

Saturday, November 8, 2025 12 Angry Women Play

Official Publication of the Stark County Bar Association

FOUNDED IN 1900

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

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

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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

Allow me to introduce myself, in an admittedly roundabout fashion, and explain how I became rooted here in Stark County, Ohio. I was born into a military family where I learned quickly about new beginnings. My parents met in Meridian, Mississippi, my Mother's hometown, in the summer of 1964. During that time my father, a young U. S. Navy sailor, was sent with his unit to Mississippi to participate in the extensive search for three missing men. These men - civil rights activists, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner - had been working with the Freedom Summer campaign to register African Americans in Mississippi to vote and had travelled to Longdale, a small town about ½ hour outside of Meridian on this mission. Chaney, Goodman and Schwerner mysteriously disappeared after a traffic stop and their burnt-out vehicle was found 3 days later near a swamp. It took several weeks for the bodies of these men to be recovered and during those weeks the sailors engaged in the dirty work of finding them. Eventually, an FBI investigation revealed that local White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, the Neshoba County Sheriff's Office, and the Philadelphia Police Department were involved in the incident. Remarkably, some good arose from this deplorable chapter of U.S. history - outrage over the activists' murders served as a catalyst for the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and my parents met.

My father retired from the U.S. Navy after 20 years. During his years of service, after being born in Meridian, Mississippi, I experienced new beginnings in Virginia Beach, Virginia while he was stationed in Norfolk and Memphis, Tennessee while he was stationed in Millington. Dad then enlisted in the U.S. Army as a recruiter and served our country another 10 years while stationed in East Cleveland, Ohio and Omaha, Nebraska. Ultimately, our family settled in Tennessee where I attended the University of Memphis and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theater and Communications. Roots in Portage County, Ohio where my father was born and Stark County where my older sisters lived brought me out of the south and back to Northeast Ohio, and specifically Canton, Ohio.



Magistrate Beverly Proctor-Donald
President, Stark County Bar Association

I enrolled in the University of Akron School of Law and graduated in 1996. I ventured into private practice in 2001. This is when I discovered the Stark County Bar Association and began participating in the Lawyer Referral Program as a way of building my fledgling law practice. As a sole practitioner, I found the resources that the Bar Association provided, including CLE's, the blue book attorney directory, and networking to be invaluable. Over time, I transitioned from seeking the Bar's services to serving on several committees, including Pro Bono, Grievance, Family Law, the Executive Committee and now as an officer. In October of 2023, I made a big pivot in my career, choosing to close my 22 year old law practice and started serving Stark County on the bench as a Magistrate for the Stark County Family Court.

Now, as I transition to the new role of serving as Bar President, I want to extend thanks to all of those who have served as exceptional Chairpersons on the numerous active committees which are vital to our Bar Association and to welcome those who have graciously agreed to serve during my term. I especially want to welcome the newly appointed Chairpersons.

(President's Letter continued from previous page)

I am looking forward to working together with Bar leadership and the membership body as we continue the celebration of our 125th year of carrying out the purpose of the Stark County Bar Association: working for the general good of the community, improving the administration of the law in the interests of the public, promoting good relations among the

members of the bar, and furthering the professional interests of our members. I have participated in other bar associations in the area, and I can truly say the camaraderie and dedication that our members have to our association is matchless. Here's to another new beginning!

NOTICE ONLINE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY PHOTO REQUEST

Members wishing to have their photo posted in our Online Membership Directory on our website, please e-mail your photo to Chris at <u>SCBANotary@StarkCtyBar.com</u>.

SAVE THE DATE SAVE THE DATE SAVE THE DATE SAVE THE DATE

Social Committee Events

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



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 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



FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 2025
GATES OPEN @ 5:30 P.M. • GAME BEGINS @ 7:05 P.M.



REGISTER HERE!

Or mail your check made payable to Stark County Bar Association, 116 Cleveland Ave., N.W., Suite 400, Canton, Ohio 44702. Register by August 1st.

RUBBERDUCKS VS. CHESAPEAKE BAYSOX

Fireworks after game! Bring your staff, family and friends!

| 5:00 P.M. | Social at Barley House then walk to Canal Park - \$20.00 Per Person with Cash Bar |
|-----------|---|
| 7:05 P.M. | RubberDucks Game - \$15.00 Per Person |
| | Number of Tickets (Attending Game \$15.00 per person) |
| | Number attending Social at Barley House & Game (\$35.00 per person) |
| | Number attending just the Social at Barley House (\$20.00 per person) |
| Members N | Name: |
| Members E | mail Address: |

2024 - 2025 Stark County Bar Association's Legal Scholarship

This year the Bar Association awarded four scholarships. The four recipients are Zachary Buckler attending the American University Washington College of Law, Brianne Campbell attending Pepperdine University, Juilia DiBease attending the University of Akron, and Payton Knoch attending the University of Akron.

Stark Community Foundation administers the scholarship fund for the Bar Association

and works closely with our Scholarship
Committee. The scholarships have been funded
from donations from the Stark County Bar
Association throughout the years. Included in
the fund are donations received in memory of
a deceased attorney or loved one. Donations
are always welcomed so that we may continue
this scholarship opportunity for years to come.
Please send any donations directly to the Bar
Association. Thank you.

Recent Donations were made by the following individuals:

- The Stark County Bar Association's Annual donation of \$1,000.00.
- David Thorley
- John Clark
- Anthony DeGirolamo

- Joseph Martuccio
- John Morris
- Peter Kacarab
- Emilie Pidgeon
- Lori Graham

- Thomas Bernabei
- Honorable C. Roland Centrone
- Janet Dutt
- Douglas N. Godshall
- Honorable Mary A. Falvey

Report of Bar Applicant Committee

On June 5th the Bar Applicant Committee conducted interviews of 21 candidates. One additional interview took place via Zoom.

The breakdown of activity is as follows:

Committee members present and conducting interviews were Chairman James M. Conley, Andrea C. Bartos, Richard A. Drake, Taryn A. Douglas, Robert W. Eckinger, Katie Erchick Gilbert, Anthony Kaplanis, Erich J. Maier, Ivan Redinger, Jr., Hon. Richard D. Reinbold, Jr., Amanda Paar Conroy, Scott P. Sandrock, Mary Jo Shannon Slick, Gretchen Stocker, Mary Beth E. Ulm-Green, George Urban and Jacob T. Will. We thank the members for taking time from their busy schedules to assist in conducting the interviews!

NOTICE

In accordance with the requirements of SB 94, the Court of Common Pleas, General Division will begin accepting e-filing via CJIS on July 1st. The Court is currently working on implementation of a new case management and e-filing system, which will eventually replace e-filing through CJIS. The Court will post additional information about the transition from CJIS e-filing to the new e-filing system as the date for the transition gets closer. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Court Administration.

Cortney Morgan Court Administrator General Division- Stark County Court of Common Pleas 115 Central Plaza North Canton, OH 44702

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"Sixty "60" years of age or 30 years of experience as a practicing attorney".

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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 | | | |

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2025 Criminal Law Seminar Video Replay

ADJOURN

| *Mer | mbers: \$90.00 | Associate Members: | \$75.00 | Non-Members: \$165.00 |
|---------|----------------|--------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Name | | | _ Atty. Reg | y. 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.

12:15 P.M.



Stark County Bar Association

2025 ESTATE PLANNING AND ELDER LAW SYMPOSIUM

Thursday, September 25, 2025-Kent State Stark Conference Center

LIVE SEMINAR

Sponsored by: Judge Curt Werren and the Probate Practice and Elder Law Committees of the Stark County Bar Association

| 8:00 A.M. | REGISTRATION & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST | | | | |
|------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| 8:30 A.M. | DRAFTING BEST PRACTICES John D. Clark, Esq., Law Office of John D. Clark | | | | |
| 9:15 а.м. | TRUST PROTECTOR ACT Brian C. Layman, Esq., Layman Law Group Daniel R. Griffith, Esq., SVP Director of Wealth Strategy, The Huntington National Bank | | | | |
| 10:00 A.M. | BREAK | | | | |
| 10:15 A.M. | SURVIVING SPOUSE'S RIGHTS UNDER THE PROBATE CODE Ralph E. Lehman, Esq., Logee, Hostetler, Stutzman & Lehman, LLC | | | | |
| 11:00 а.м. | LEGISLATIVE UPDATE Mary Augsburger, Esq., OSBA Chief Executive Officer & Corporate Secretary | | | | |
| 12:00 NOON | LUNCH PROVIDED | | | | |
| 12:55 р.м. | Presentation by KIKO (Event Sponsor) | | | | |
| 1:00 P.M. | CASE LAW UPDATE Jessica Forrest, Esq., Reminger Co., L.P.A. | | | | |
| 2:00 P.M. | BREAK | | | | |
| 2:15 р.м. | UNDERSTANDING LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE: POLICY TYPES, QUALIFICATION STANDARDS, AND CASE STUDIES Jim Wolverton, J.D., Director of Legal Education, Krause Financial | | | | |
| 3:15 р.м. | BREAK | | | | |
| 3:25 P.M. | Presentation by Farmer's Trust Company (Reception Sponsor) | | | | |
| 3:30 р.м. | VIEW FROM THE BENCH Honorable Curt Werren, Stark County Probate Court | | | | |
| 4:15 P.M. | ADJOURN | | | | |

RECEPTION WITH THE HONORABLE CURT WERREN FOLLOWING SEMINAR.

2025 ESTATE PLANNING AND ELDER LAW SYMPOSIUM LIVE SEMINAR - KENT STATE STARK CONFERENCE CENTER

Thursday, September 25, 2025
Registration Deadline: September 11, 2025

Associate Members: \$235.00

Non-Members: \$415.00

| | ' | | |
|----------------|---|----------------|----|
| Name: | | _ Atty. Reg. 1 | No |
| | | , , | |
| Address: | | | |
| Email Address: | | | |

Please mail your payment for this seminar to: Stark County Bar Association 116 Cleveland Avenue, N.W., Suite 400, Canton, Ohio 44702-1728

MATERIALS: Handouts for this program will be provided to all attendees in electronic, rather than hard copy format. When you register, be sure to include your email address so that we can notify you when the electronic materials are available.

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

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

Application applied for 6.00 CLE General Credit Hours and 6.00 Certified Specialization Credit Hours in Elder Law and Estate Planning, Trust, and Probate Law.





Take advantage of the Stark County Bar Association's SELF-STUDY courses through our website: 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)

*Members: \$265.00

- The 28th Annual White-Williams Bankruptcy Institute (5.00 General & 1.0 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/

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If you have questions about our online CLE or have problems logging in, please call the Bar Office or email <u>CLE@starkctybar.com</u>.

This year, we will take the opportunity to recognize local practitioners who are celebrating 50 years in the practice of law. Our next attorney to be recognized for a largely commendable 50 years of practice is Michael Zirpolo, Esq.

50тн Year Spotlight

Michael Zirpolo, Esq.



Attorney Michael Zirpolo was born and raised in Canton. He attended Our Lady of Peace for grade school and St. Thomas Aquinas for high school. He then went on to study at Walsh College, now Walsh University. Attorney Zirpolo then went to earn his JD from Ohio Northern University.

Why did you decide to become a lawyer?

As a child growing up in Canton, Ohio in the 1950's and 1960's, I did not realize what a closed society I lived in. I was a great television watcher. I did not know what an attorney was until I started watching Perry Mason. I found Perry Mason fascinating, and that is what set me on the course to be an attorney. No one in my family had gone to college or was an attorney, I was the first.

What has been your main area of practice?

I started and spent the first ten years of my career at the county prosecutor's office where I learned so many valuable skills. Civil, criminal, and appellate trial practice, how county government operates... impossible to state the many benefits I received working for the county prosecutor's office. We need the experience to learn.

While in the prosecutor's office, I gradually transitioned to the civil division and began interacting with the County Commissioners. At the time, the County still possessed Molly Stark Hospital and the Joseph T. Nist Home (county

owned nursing home). I began working for the Commissioners as counsel to get special projects completed. Such as closing Molly Stark and getting the Nist Home sold. These projects took approximately three years to complete.

Once I completed these special projects, the Commissioners sent me to the Multi-County Juvenile Attention Center. In this position, I was able to utilize all of the legal tools that I had accumulated through the years regarding county government. I learned quickly from working in this role that the Juvenile Center was actually a valuable community asset to help kids at a cross road choose a path outside of the criminal justice system. As chief legal counsel to the Commissioners, I was responsible for Human Resource matters for approximately 185 employees, as well as the liaison with other county commissioners and judges regarding the Multi-County Center.

During this time, I also had a private practice where I focused on plaintiff's civil litigation. Another incredible mentoring opportunity came with my membership in the Stark County Academy of Trial Lawyers. The lawyers within this group provided great advice and guidance on civil litigation that other attorneys had to share. This was a wonderful experience and got me into an interaction with other like-minded attorneys. Fifty years later, I am still a member of this organization, now named the Stark County Academy for Justice.

What have been the biggest changes in the practice of law that you have witnessed over the past 50 years and have they been for the better? How have these changes impacted your practice?

The biggest change for me has been technology and computerization. Although I may not have known how to turn on a computer on January 1, 2000, I resolved in the new millennium to learn. I gradually came to the realization of how great technology can be, especially in the law library. I

believe that technology has vastly improved client communications as well. I find emails to clients can be highly effective in providing clients with the information they need and can refer back to.

What has been the most fulfilling aspect of your career?

The essence of it is that if you are a good lawyer, who prepares before you go to court, doesn't use AI to write briefs, checks your citations... you may end up in a good place with your client as you navigate the minefield of civil litigation. If you move along the process, it is very fulfilling to get to that point with your client.

Do you have a favorite legal movie or book?

I do not read fiction and I am very particular of the movies I watch. However, I am fascinated by American history, from the absolutely majestic to the horrible. For example, an author named Robert Caro has written a biography of Lyndon Johnson that encompasses four or five volumes. These non-fiction books are transformative as they go into the nuts and bolts of the election of the Democratic Convention of 1960, choosing John F. Kennedy as the nominee for President and Johnson as the Vice President.

What is the best advice you can give new lawyers entering the profession?

Collaboration is essential when practicing civil litigation as a solo practitioner. Even when utilizing technology, attorneys must still exercise due care and take the time to communicate with clients. There are no short cuts in the practice of law. There is no substitute for doing what has to be done. If you get a phone call, text message or email you have to respond promptly.

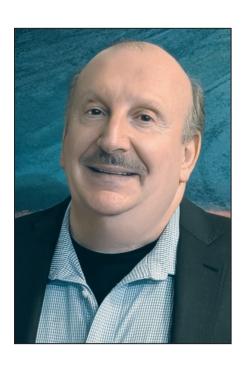
Secondly, do not use AI to write your briefs. If you do, you better rigorously edit it before handing it to a judge. It is an insult to the practice of law, it is an insult to the court and to the client that is paying you to prepare something. Lawyers are under pressure, I have been there, I did it for fifty years. It is work; it is hard work. We as lawyers take an oath, but we must always do what we need to do as required by the law to represent the client. Doing less will invariably catch up with you.

I am not a very nostalgic person; in another life I am a historian. I am fascinated by history. My studies as a historian have led me to the conclusion that there really were no good old days, the good old days are now. Human nature is consistent. You have to appreciate the people you are dealing with now, because they may not be there.

In celebration of the Stark County Bar Association's 125th Anniversary, on Saturday, September 13th at Cyrus Gallery in Canton we will be celebrating the non-legal talents of some of our members.

Attorney Zirpolo shared that in addition to being an accomplished plaintiff's attorney, he is a published author and has a blog, www.swingandbeyond.com, discussing swing music. Information about his book, Mr. Trumpet, The Trials, Tribulations and Triumph of Bunny Berigan, can be found at www.bunnyberiganmrtrumpet.com.

Join us and learn more about Attorney Zirpolo's love of swing music on September 13th!



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