



# STARK COUNTY BAR JOURNAL

VOLUME 32 ■ NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER 2026



## **2026 Golf Outing and Bar Review Happy Hour**

**Thursday, October 15, 2026**

**9 Holes - 2:00 p.m. Tee Off**

**Bar Review Happy Hour @ 5:00 p.m. – Cash Bar**

# SCBA September 2026 Office Schedule

|                        |                                                         |                                                    |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Sept. 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | 11:30 AM                                                | Family Law Committee Meeting<br>at Bender's Tavern |
| Sept. 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | 12:00 NOON                                              | Community Involvement<br>Committee Meeting         |
| Sept. 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Office closed in observance of the Labor Day<br>Holiday |                                                    |
| Sept. 10 <sup>th</sup> | 12:00 NOON                                              | Finance Committee Meeting                          |
| Sept. 14 <sup>th</sup> | 4:00 PM                                                 | Disputed Fee Committee Meeting                     |
| Sept. 15 <sup>th</sup> | 3:15 PM                                                 | Grievance Committee Meeting                        |
| Sept. 16 <sup>th</sup> | 4:00 PM                                                 | Executive Committee Meeting                        |
| Sept. 24 <sup>th</sup> | 12:00 NOON                                              | Military & Veterans Affairs<br>Committee Meeting   |
| Sept. 24 <sup>th</sup> | 5:00 PM                                                 | Bar Review Happy Hour<br>The Canton Club Vault     |

## 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)**

# 2026 CLE Seminars

|                |                                                                                                    |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sept. 23, 2026 | 2026 Professional Conduct Seminar<br>Video Replay<br>SCBA Conference Room<br>See Pg. 5             |
| Oct. 2, 2026   | 2026 Municipal Court Seminar<br>Video Replay<br>SCBA Conference Room<br>See Pg. 6                  |
| Oct. 22, 2026  | 2026 Professional Conduct Seminar<br>Video Replay<br>SCBA Conference Room<br>See Pg. 5             |
| Nov. 19, 2026  | View From The Bench Seminar<br>Stark County Office Building<br>Auditor's Hearing Room<br>See Pg. 7 |



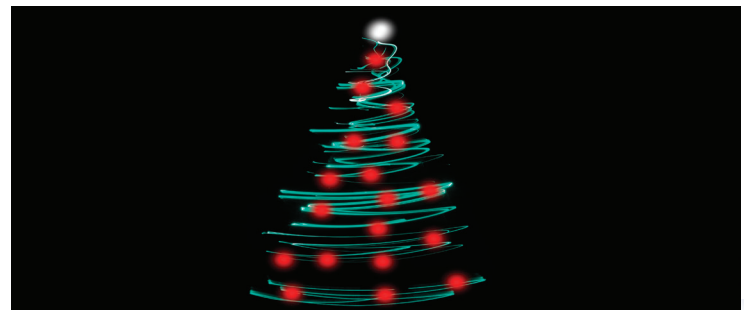
## On-Line CLE

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



**Reminder: M - Z!**  
**Complete your CLE by Dec. 31, 2026**

## Save The Date



**Holiday Party**  
**Brookside Country Club**  
**December 4, 2026**

# 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 Andrea M. Scassa, Bar President  
Tina McCort, Executive Director & Editor  
Chris Diaz, Bookkeeper & Editor

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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

By the time you read this, school will be back in session, high school football will be underway across Stark County, and pumpkin-flavored everything will have returned. For some of us—myself included—this is the best time of year. Each fall, I make a point to slow down and enjoy all the season has to offer. I hope you can find time to do the same this autumn.

Thank you to the Honorable Judge Rosemarie Hall for your commitment and dedication to the children and families of Stark County. Your absence from the bench will be felt, but I hope you truly enjoy retirement doing all the things that bring you joy. Please take the time to join us on Friday, September 25th from 2 pm - 4 pm to celebrate Judge Hall and wish her well into retirement.

With Judge Hall's retirement, the Stark County Family Court will have a new Judge joining Judge Cordova and Judge Kreitzer. Congratulations to our immediate Past-President Magistrate Beverly Proctor-Donald who will be installed as our next Stark County Family Court Judge. Magistrate Proctor-Donald was appointed by Governor DeWine and will assume office on October 1st. I look forward to presenting Magistrate Proctor-Donald with her new judicial robe for the next chapter of her career on the bench.

Several months ago, the Bar Association was informed of the exceptionally generous gift that was bestowed from the Donald and Ardath Seiple Trust to our Scholarship Fund. Although the Bar Association was gratefully surprised to learn of the gift's existence and amount, we quickly learned that the gift had been carefully thought out through estate planning. The Scholarship Committee contemplated the best manner in which to distribute these scholarship funds while also honoring the memory of Attorney Seiple and Mrs. Seiple. The Stark Community Foundation will continue to distribute the award from the Seiple Trust, but it will be separately designated from the general SCBA scholarship. For those of you who may be contemplating a gift such as this or know someone who may, I asked Scholarship Committee Chair, Attorney John Clark, to provide some insight on how one may contribute to our Scholarship Fund.



**Honorable Andrea M. Scassa**  
*President, Stark County Bar Association*

Please keep in mind that these are simply general suggestions, as all charitable giving and the relevant tax consequences should be reviewed by your personal tax counsel.

\*You may write a check to Stark Community Foundation, Inc. fbo SCBA Scholarship Fund, this type of gift is tax deductible;

\*You may contribute appreciated securities to Stark Community Foundation, Inc. fbo SCBA Scholarship Fund, again this is tax deductible and no capital gains tax to you;

\*You may distribute to SCF, Inc. fbo SCBA Scholarship Fund from your IRA for a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) - (must be over age 70.5 years). Although not tax deductible, but it meets part of your required minimum distribution (RMD). Because the SCBA Scholarship Fund at SCF is not a donor-advised fund, your contributions from your IRA are permitted qualified charitable distributions (QCDs).

*(continued on next page)*

\*You may arrange for a gift to occur at your death, you can add gift language to your Will, Trust, or Beneficiary Designation Form - again to the "Stark Community Foundation, Inc. fbo SCBA Scholarship Fund". The Stark Community Foundation, Inc. will create a sub-fund in your name with a gift that is \$25,000 or more.

\*You may also still write a check to SCBA Scholarship Fund or donate at various social events where the proceeds go to the Scholarship Fund. However, there is no tax deduction for this type of donation because SCBA is not a 501(c)(3) charity.

Please also keep in mind that when evaluating scholarships submitted through the SCF, one of the most important criteria for scholarship selection is whether the student plans to practice law in Stark County. Thus, your gift is an investment that will help to ensure that the next generation of attorneys will serve our community well.

Looking to the next generation of attorneys, I am happy to announce that the Young Lawyer's Committee is once again co-sponsoring a New

Lawyer Training on Thursday, November 19th from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm with the Stark County Law Library. Attorneys admitted to the Bar five years and less are complimentary, so all you Young Lawyers please take some time out of your schedule to have lunch and get CLE!

Thank you to Attorney Laura Mills for hosting the Bar Review Fall Happy Hour at The Canton Club Vault on Thursday, September 24th. What a wonderful opportunity to relax at one of the hottest places in Downtown Canton.

I am also sending out a call to all our golfers to take the time to join the Social Committee on Thursday, October 15th for the annual golf outing. This year, we will be at the scenic Quarry Golf Club in Canton. Sign your foursome up today, or if you're not a golfer like me, join me on the patio to enjoy a crisp fall evening!

Lastly, I hope you all have already saved the date for the Holiday Party at Brookside on Friday, December 4th. If you know, you know. It's always a great time!

## STARK COUNTY FAMILY COURT



### *Retirement* OPEN HOUSE



PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATING

*The honorable*  
*Rosemarie A. Hall*

**AFTER 22 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE,  
LEADERSHIP, AND COMMITMENT TO THE  
FAMILIES AND CHILDREN OF STARK  
COUNTY, WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US AS  
WE HONOR JUDGE HALL'S  
DISTINGUISHED CAREER AND LASTING  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY.**



**FRIDAY  
SEPTEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>  
COURTROOM 1  
2PM - 4PM**





DM  
**DIOCESE OF YOUNGSTOWN**  
**THE MOST REVEREND DAVID J. BONNAR**

**Bishop of Youngstown**  
and the  
*Thomas More Society*  
*cordially invite you*  
*to the*  
**THIRTIETH ANNUAL RED MASS**



*A joyful and traditional celebration for those who serve in judicial and legal professions*

To be held on  
**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2026**  
12:00 P.M.

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Basilica  
Youngstown, Ohio

*Luncheon and program to follow at*  
*Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Hall*

*The cost of the luncheon is \$30.00. Please make check payable to the Diocese of Youngstown. (Please note if you have special dietary needs.)*  
*Please respond by September 25, 2026. For further information please contact Monsignor Robert Siffrin at (330) 744-8451 ext. 225*



**STARK COUNTY**  
**COURT OF COMMON PLEAS**

**FAMILY COURT DIVISION**

**INVESTITURE**

JOIN US AS WE OFFICIALLY INSTALL  
**BEVERLY PROCTOR-DONALD**  
AS FAMILY COURT JUDGE



**DATE**  
SATURDAY,  
OCTOBER 3, 2026



**TIME**  
11:30 A.M.  
- 1:30 P.M.



**VENUE**  
STARK COUNTY EVENT HALL  
110 Central Plaza South, Suite 100  
Canton, Ohio 44702



**RSVP**  
RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 18, 2026  
(330)-697-5160  
bpdn@aol.com

# BAR REVIEW FALL HAPPY HOUR

*Raise a Glass. Build a Network.*

OPEN TO ALL SCBA MEMBERS!  
RSVP AT [Tina@StarkCtyBar.com](mailto:Tina@StarkCtyBar.com)

**THURSDAY, SEPT. 24TH  
5:00 P.M.**

*The Canton Club Vault*

101 Central Plaza, South, Downtown Canton

This informal event is open to all SCBA members—  
young lawyers, seasoned lawyers and everyone in  
between. It will be a relaxed opportunity to spend  
some social time with colleagues, reconnect with  
familiar faces, and meet other members of the bar.

**We hope to see you there!**



## **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:**

- 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 (2.25 General credit hours & .75 Professional Conduct credit hour)
- 2025 Professional Conduct Seminar (2.5 Professional Conduct credit hours)
- 2025 Estate Planning & Elder Law Symposium (6.0 General credit hours)
- 2026 Criminal Law Seminar (3.00 General credit hours)
- 2026 Municipal Court Seminar (3.00 General credit hours)
- 2026 Family Law Seminar (3.00 General credit hours)
- 2026 Law Day Seminar (2.75 General credit hours)

*\* Additional courses available soon. \**

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).



# Stark County Bar Association

## 2026 PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT SEMINAR VIDEO REPLAYS

• See Dates Below •

SCBA Conference Room



12:45 pm - Registration

Course Schedule:

1:00 pm - Seminar Begins

2:30 pm - 2:45 pm - Break

3:45 pm - Adjourn

An interactive Ethics and Professional Responsibility seminar that will address topics such as; The Ohio Rules of Professional Conduct, Board of Professional Conduct Advisory Opinions, IOLTA, Best Practices, Artificial Intelligence and relevant Ohio Disciplinary Matters.

Presentation given by Richard S. Koblentz, Esq., and Nicholas E. Froning, Esq.  
*Koblentz, Penrose & Froning, LLC*

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## 2026 Professional Conduct Seminar Video Replays

☐ Wednesday, September 23, 2026

☐ Thursday, October 22, 2026

\*Members: \$75.00

Associate Members: \$62.50

Non-Members: \$137.50

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.



# Stark County Bar Association

## 2026 MUNICIPAL COURT SEMINAR

### VIDEO REPLAY

Friday, October 2, 2026 - SCBA Conference Room

8:45 A.M. REGISTRATION - Coffee, water and donuts provided.

9:00 A.M. CANTON MUNICIPAL COURT  
Honorable Kristen D. Guardado  
Honorable Jeremy J. Foltz  
Honorable Earle E. Wise, Jr.  
Chief Magistrate Derek C. McClowry  
*Tips From The Bench*

10:00 A.M. MASSILLON MUNICIPAL COURT  
Honorable Joel C. Fichter  
Honorable Andrea M. Scassa  
Magistrate Evan Heck  
Probation Officer Lindsay McManus  
1. Arraignments, Evictions, & Hearings  
2. Sealings/Expungements  
3. View from the Bench

11:00 A.M. BREAK

11:15 A.M. ALLIANCE MUNICIPAL COURT  
Honorable Andrew L. Zumbar  
1. Landlord Tenant Issues  
2. Criminal Forms and Practices  
3. Applications to Seal/Expunge  
4. Driver's License Issues/Getting valid/limited privilege  
5. Court Appointed Attorney Fees

12:15 P.M. ADJOURN



## 2026 Municipal Court 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 approved for 3.00 General CLE Credit Hours.



Stark County Bar Association  
**VIEW FROM THE BENCH SEMINAR**  
**Thursday, November 19, 2026**

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

**NEW LAWYER TRAINING!!**  
**Non-new attorneys will receive 1.50 CLE General Credit Hours**

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

Lunch Provided by the Stark County Law Library

11:30 A.M. TODAY'S RESOURCES AT THE LAW LIBRARY  
Lisa Murray, Assistant Director of the Stark County Law Library

12:00 NOON VIEW FROM THE BENCH  
Presented by the Honorable Beverly Proctor-Donald  
Stark County Family Court

1:00 P.M. ADJOURN



Attorney Members and Non-Members admitted to the Bar 5 years or less: COMP.  
Members/Assoc. Members/Non-Members: \$30.00

Registration deadline is Thursday, November 12, 2026

The boxed lunch options are as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

\* Seating is Limited\*

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

NO REFUNDS UNLESS RESERVATION CANCELLATION IS RECEIVED 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF SEMINAR.  
Application will be submitted for 1.50 NLT/General CLE Credit Hours.

Stark County Bar Association

# 2026 GOLF OUTING & BAR REVIEW HAPPY HOUR

*Thursday, October 15, 2026*



5650 Quarry Lake Dr.  
Canton, OH 44730

The Quarry is situated just  
minutes from downtown Canton.

**Golf: 2 PM Start.** Includes: 9 holes, green fees, cart, driving range, 1  
drink ticket and awards on the patio with heavy Hors D'oeuvres/Dinner  
during the social. Cash Bar.  
\$80 Per Golfer

**Social/Bar Review Happy Hour: 5 PM**

Heavy Hors D'oeuvres/Dinner and awards on the Patio. Cash Bar.  
\$30 Per Person



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## 2026 SCBA Golf Outing

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Thursday, October 8th**

Stark County Bar Association  
400 Courtyard Centre Building  
116 Cleveland Ave., N.W.  
Canton, Ohio 44702  
PH: 330-453-0685  
[SCB@StarkCtyBar.com](mailto:SCB@StarkCtyBar.com)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$80 Per Person Golf Package

\_\_\_\_\_ \$30 Per Person for Social

**Team:**

Player One: \_\_\_\_\_

Player Two: \_\_\_\_\_

Player Three: \_\_\_\_\_

Player Four: \_\_\_\_\_

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 J. Scott Kettler, Esq.

## 50TH Year Spotlight

### J. Scott Kettler, Esq.



J. Scott Kettler entered the practice of law 50 years ago looking for job satisfaction and work that was flexible and fulfilling. He finds it hard to believe that it has been fifty years, but he looks back fondly at his career in trust law and the impact that he had on numerous lives.

Providing others with checks upon their retirement has left him with fond memories of a rewarding career. We had a chance to talk with Scott about the practice of law and his career.

#### **Where did you attend law school?**

I studied history and accounting at Walsh University knowing that I wanted to attend law school. I was accepted by the University of Akron Law School into the night program, but the school permitted me to attend additional classes to receive my degree in three rather than four years. My brother, Judge Richard Kettler, and I both attended law school at the same time, but contrary to his claims over the years, he was ahead of me and is my OLDER brother.

#### **Why did you decide to become a lawyer?**

My father was an accountant and lawyer, but the focus of his career was accounting. He joined the corporate world and was the treasurer for The Repository. He helped the company pursue and purchase other newspapers around the country. Although my dad was a lawyer, he hoped that my brothers or I would follow in his accounting footsteps. He was not pleased when none of us chose accounting as our profession. I thought going

into the law would provide more job satisfaction, but I also used my accounting studies in my field of trust law.

#### **What has been your main area of practice?**

Trust law. After law school, I looked at every possible trust department and job opportunity. By luck, Harter Bank & Trust Company had an opening in their trust department due to a retirement. The head of the department asked what I knew about ERISA which was brand new legislation at the time. My response was that I had studied ERISA in law school. I went from hearing about the legislation in a law school class to becoming the head of the ERISA Department for Harter Bank.

#### **What have been the biggest changes in the practice of law that you've witnessed over the past 50 years and have they been for the better? How have these changes impacted your practice (positively or negatively)?**

The two biggest changes in employee benefits are that the number of trust departments have gone from a number of options to being consolidated into two large banks, and there has been a consolidation of the people servicing employee benefits. Employee benefits has become a big business, and the personal aspects of the work have been lost along the way. I remember handing checks to employees who were retiring and helping them decide what to do with the money to make it last through their retirement. That type of personal contact with employees is no longer standard practice.

#### **What has been the most fulfilling aspect of your career?**

In addition to my work and helping employees, I have enjoyed working for a number of banks that had a focus on community involvement. It seems

*(continued on next page)*

that this is less of a focus today, but as a bank employee, we were encouraged to participate and support events in the community.

**What is something a lot of people do not know about you?**

Two things come to mind. I like to travel. Before I retired, my wife and I visited every courthouse in the State of Ohio. There are some real gems, and we enjoyed the experience. Second, some might call me a “certified expert bullshitter,” but I actually did receive the designation of “Certified Employee Benefit Specialist” which is offered through a partnership between the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and the International Foundation of Employee Benefits Plans.

**What’s the best advice you can give new lawyers entering the profession?**

Get involved with the Stark County Bar Association. It is a great source for volunteerism and cooperation in our legal profession.



## Do You Want More Clients?

Join the SCBA’s Lawyer Referral Service  
Contact the Bar Office at 330-453-0685  
or [SCBAReferral@StarkCtyBar.com](mailto:SCBAReferral@StarkCtyBar.com)

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[dngodshall@gmail.com](mailto:dngodshall@gmail.com)

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

cell: 330-603-5942

## Special Needs Trusts & Trust Reformations

**Jennifer L. Lile, CELA**

Attorney at Law  
[jlile@kwgd.com](mailto:jlile@kwgd.com)

*Certified Elder Law Attorney by the National Elder Law Foundation*

**KWGD**  
 attorneys at law  
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 WILKINS  
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 DOUGHERTY  
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*- Tim Moore*



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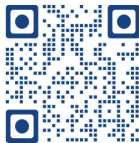
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