

THE OHIO PROSECUTOR

July 2024

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From your Executive Director...



Prosecutors -

With the legislature recessing for the Summer at the end of June I was able to go to the NAPC Summer Conference in Boise, Idaho to meet with OPAA's counterparts from across the country to share ideas and learn more about common issues facing prosecutors. We had presentations on topics that are familiar here including sextortion, organized retail theft, and the rise of artificial intelligence and the ways that

prosecutors can use it to benefit their office. There was also discussion about the recruitment and retention issues prosecutors' offices face and what can be done to improve our prospects. We also took a field trip to the Old Idaho Penitentiary, built in 1870 when Idaho was only a territory. We took a guided tour and had dinner onsite, prepared by a local Basque chef in recognition of the Basque influence on Boise and Idaho. Some pictures are included later in the newsletter.

Back home we are looking forward to OPAA's 3^{rd} Trial Advocacy Boot Camp at Ohio Northern the second week of August, our Fall Training in Cleveland September 19-20, and welcoming our new tenants, the Ohio Network of Children's Advocacy Centers, who move into one of our 3^{rd} floor suites in August.

Hope everyone gets to enjoy some Summer sun and look forward to seeing many of you in Cleveland in September.

Lou



At the Statehouse

Below is a current list of priority legislation along with the OPAA's position. For a full list of bills that we are tracking visit www.ohiopa.org. Please contact Lou if you have any questions about a piece of legislation or the reason for our position. Also, if you have any questions about the work of the legislature or the status of any legislation, please let us know!

Legislative Top 10 Bills to Watch

- 1) House Bill 51 (Second Amendment Preservation Act). Prohibits a public office, public officer, or employee of the state or a political subdivision from enforcing federal law regarding firearms. Subjects the state or political subdivision to liability through a private cause of action for enforcing, attempting to enforce, or participating in any way in the enforcement of federal acts, executive orders, administrative orders, rules, regulations, statutes, or ordinances regarding firearms and for employing any former federal employees who worked on such issues while in federal employment. OPAA Position Oppose.
- 2) House Bill 86/House Bill 354 (Adult Use Marijuana Implementation). Both bills make changes to the language of Issue 2 and the Adult-Use Marijuana program. House Bill 86 was amended by the Senate in December 2023 to make substantial changes to Issue 2 including provisions on home grow, THC limits, use, possession, and transportation, smoking in a vehicle, and the social equity and jobs program. House Bill 354 in the House's vision of Issue 2 implementation. It makes much more limited changes to Issue 2 that include minor tweaks to use, possession, and transportation. OPAA Position Amend.
- 3) House Bill 111 (Domestic Violence Penalties). Makes felony domestic violence a "high-tier" F3 subject to a sentencing range of 1 to 5 years rather than 9 to 36 months. OPAA Position Support.
- 4) House Bill 230 (Drug Trafficking/Organized Trafficking of Person). Increases penalties for trafficking cocaine, heroin, fentanyl, and methamphetamine. Creates a 5-year sentencing specification for involuntary manslaughter related to a fentanyl

- overdose death. Removes provisions from the drug possession law related to Schedule III, IV, and V drugs mixed with fentanyl. Creates the offense of offense of organized trafficking in persons. OPAA Position Support.
- 5) House Bill 91/Senate Bill 100 (Tracking Devices). Prohibit a person from using a tracking device or application to track the position or movement of another person without the other person's consent. A violation is a misdemeanor of the first degree for a first offense. The penalty is enhanced to a felony of the fourth degree for any subsequent violation and under other specified circumstances similar to those in the menacing by stalking statute. OPAA Position Support.
- 6) Senate Bill 101/House Bill 259 (Death Penalty Repeal). Repeals the death penalty. OPAA Position Oppose.
- 7) Senate Bill 223/House Bill 366 (Organized Retail Theft). Enacts the Fight Organized Retail Crime and Empower Law Enforcement (FORCE) Act. The bills authorize the Organize Crime Investigation Commission to establish an organized retail theft task force, create the crime of organized retail theft, increase the penalties for theft of mail, increase the penalties for criminal mischief involving a retail pump, and update counterfeiting to address credit card "skimming." OPAA Position Amend.
- 8) House Bill 531/Senate Bill 263 (Sexual Extortion). Prohibits sexual extortion and aggravated sexual extortion and allows family of certain victims of aggravated sexual extortion to receive compensation from the crime victims compensation fund. OPAA Position Support.
- 9) House Bill 460 (Automatic Sealing Criminal Records). Requires BCI to compile lists of offenders who are eligible for record sealing and to submit those lists to the appropriate court on an ongoing basis for sealing. The court must seal the records unless a prosecutor objects for one of the limited reasons established in the bill. OPAA Position Oppose.
- 10) House Bill 196 (Community Control Sanctions). Change the maximum periods of community control sanctions authorized for felonies and misdemeanors, modifies the confinement sanctions authorized for a violation of community control sanction conditions, and creates a procedure for early termination of community control sanction conditions. OPAA Position Oppose



Notable legislation

HB20 **OHIO COMPUTER CRIMES ACT**

(SWEARINGEN D) To enact the Ohio Computer

Crimes Act.

Position: Support

https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati State Bill on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-Page:

HB37 **OVI PENALTIES** (JOHNSON M, MILLER K) To

modify the law related to OVI-related offenses.

Position: Amend

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati

Page: on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-

RECORD PAROLE BOARD HEARINGS HB44

(HUMPHREY L, STEWART B) To require electronic recordings to be made of all parole board hearings, excluding certain personal identifying information, and to make those electronic recordings "public records" under the Public Records Law.

Position: Support

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati

on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-Page:

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SECOND AMENDMENT PRESERVATION HB51

(LOYCHIK M, SCHMIDT J) To enact the Second Amendment Preservation Act to add additional protections to the right to bear arms.

Position: Oppose

https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati State Bill Page:

on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-

HB67 PENALTY REDUCTIONS DUE TO CHANGES

IN LAW (SEITZ B, WILLIAMS J) To provide that if a penalty for an offense has been imposed on an offender and if the penalty for that offense is subsequently reduced by a change to the Revised Code or Constitution, the penalty previously imposed on the offender may be reduced.

Position: Oppose

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati

on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-Page:

HB77 DRONE OPERATION REQUIREMENTS,

PROHIBITIONS (WILLIS B) To establish

requirements and prohibitions governing the operation

of unmanned aerial vehicles in Ohio.

Position: Support State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legisla

Page: tion/legislation-summary?id=GA135-

HB-77

HB91 PROHIBIT TRACKING DEVICES WITHOUT

CONSENT (PATTON T) To generally prohibit a person from knowingly installing a tracking device or application on another person's property without the other person's consent.

Position: Support

https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legisla State Bill tion/legislation-summary?id=GA135-Page:

HB-91

HB111 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PENALTIES (LARE J.

MILLER K) To increase the sentencing range for third degree felony domestic violence and to create a presumption in favor of a prison term for the offense.

Position: Support

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legisla tion/legislation-summary?id=GA135-Page:

HB-111

EXPAND INTIMIDATION OFFENSES HB122

(PAVLIGA G, MILLER A) To expand intimidation offenses to include guardians ad litem and courtappointed special advocates and to designate May 1st as "Court-Appointed Special Advocates Appreciation Dav."

Position: Amend

https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legisla State Bill tion/legislation-summary?id=GA135-Page:

HB-122

HB139 INCREASE PENALTIES FOR ASSAULT OF SPORTS OFFICIAL (ROEMER B, MILLER J) To

increase the penalties for assault if the victim is acting as a sports official or the assault is committed in retaliation for the victim's actions as a sports official.

Position: Oppose

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legisla tion/legislation-summary?id=GA135-Page:

HB-139

HB140 PASSING SCHOOL BUS (BROWN R) To make

changes to the law governing passing a school bus.

Position:

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legisla Page: tion/legislation-summary?id=GA135-

HB-140

HB149 DRONE SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS

(WILLIS B) To establish requirements related to the use of an uncrewed aerial vehicle for surveillance.

Position: Oppose

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati
Page: on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-

149

HB196 COMMUNITY CONTROL SANCTIONS

(WILLIAMS J, SEITZ B) To change the maximum periods of community control sanctions authorized for felonies and misdemeanors, to modify the confinement sanctions authorized for a violation of community control sanction conditions, and to create a procedure for early termination of community control sanction conditions.

Position: Oppose

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati
Page: on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-

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HB212 PROPERTY PROTECTION ACT (KING A,

KLOPFENSTEIN R) To extend the law that prohibits certain governments, businesses, and individuals from acquiring agricultural land to certain other property and to name this act the Ohio Property Protection Act.

Position: Monitor

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati

Page: on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-

212

HB221 EXPAND POSTCONVICTION RELIEF

(SCHMIDT J, UPCHURCH T) To expand the availability of postconviction relief based on DNA testing showing actual innocence.

Position: Oppose

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-

on/ legislation-summary: id=01

221

HB230 DRUG TRAFFICKING, ORGANIZED TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS (ABRAMS C,

SWEARINGEN D) To increase penalties for drug trafficking above certain amounts, to prohibit organized trafficking of persons, to authorize collecting oral fluid as evidence in suspected OVI cases, to require schools and institutions of higher education to incorporate instruction and policies on fentanyl awareness and abuse prevention, to designate the month of August as "Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness Month," and to amend the version of section 3314.03 of the Revised Code that is scheduled to take effect January 1, 2025, to continue the changes on and after that effective date.

Position: Support

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati
Page: on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-

230

HB233 SELF-DEFENSE PROTECTION ACT

(WILLIAMS J, HILLYER B) To enact the Self-Defense Protection Act to create a pretrial procedure for a person asserting self-defense, defense of another, or defense of that person's property.

Position: Oppose

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legisl ation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-

HB-233

HB234 GENUINE REMORSE COURT CONSIDERATIONS (WILLIAMS J, ROGERS

E) To prohibit a court imposing a sentence on an offender for a felony or misdemeanor from considering whether the offender who entered an Alford plea shows genuine remorse for the offense.

Position: Oppose

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legisl Page: ation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-

HB-234

HB245 ADULT CABARET PERFORMANCES (KING

A, WILLIAMS J) To prohibit adult cabaret performances in locations other than adult cabarets.

Position: Oppose

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legisl
Page: ation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-

HB-245

HB258 TOBACCO SALES TO MINORS (CARRUTHERS

S) To increase fines for repeatedly selling tobacco products to minors and to apply the public nuisance law to places where such sales occur.

Position: Support

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legisl
Page: ation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-

HB-258

HB259 ABOLISH DEATH PENALTY (SCHMIDT J,

MILLER A) To abolish the death penalty and to modify the number of jurors that may be challenged in cases where a defendant may be sentenced to life imprisonment, and to make an appropriation.

Position: Oppose

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legisl
Page: ation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-

HB-259

HB265 EXEMPTIONS FOR PUBLIC RECORDS LAW

(WIGGAM S, HALL T) To exempt redaction request forms, affidavits, and the records of the work schedules of designated public service workers from disclosure under public records law.

Position: Monitor

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati Page: on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-

HB270 SAM KNISLEY FAMILY SUPPORT ACT

(YOUNG T, MATHEWS A) To require a felony offender of an OVI-caused aggravated vehicular homicide to pay child maintenance when the victim is a parent, legal guardian, or custodian of a minor child, to allow child maintenance to be awarded in a wrongful death action when the offender is deceased, and to name this act the Sam Knisley Family Support Act.

Position: Oppose

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-Page:

HB272 HANDGUNS -- COURTROOMS (MATHEWS A,

PIZZULLI J) To allow a concealed handgun licensee to carry a handgun in a building or structure that is not a courthouse but in which a courtroom is located in specified circumstances and to permit a nonresident of Ohio to obtain statutory relief from firearms disability based on an Ohio conviction, guilty plea, or delinquent child adjudication.

Position:

https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati State Bill

Page: on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-

272

HB281 DAMAGE COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS

(SEITZ B, YOUNG T) To require in a civil action for damages caused by another person's criminal act that such other person was convicted of, pleaded guilty to, or adjudicated delinquent in connection with the criminal act.

Position: Support

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati Page: on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-

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HB289 SORN LAW NONCOMPLIANCE (ROBB

BLASDEL M, SWEARINGEN D) To provide that if a Tier I or Tier II sex offender/child-victim offender fails to comply with duties under the SORN law, the period of time that the offender has a duty to comply is tolled during the time of the failure and to require a sex offender/child-victim offender to register a fixed residence address or provide a detailed description of the places at which the offender or delinquent child intends to stay under the SORN Law.

Position: Support

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati Page:

on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-

INNOCENCE ACT (DEMETRIOU S) To enact HB295

the Innocence Act to prohibit an organization from failing to verify the age of a person attempting to access material that is obscene or harmful to juveniles, to prohibit a person from using another person's likeness to create sexual images of the other person, and to create a private right of action for each prohibited activity.

Position: Amend

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legisla tion/legislation-summary?id=GA135-Page:

HB-295

HB314 JUVENILE COURT TRANSFERS (BIRD A,

WILLIAMS J) To remove the option for the juvenile court to transfer a proceeding against a juvenile to the county where the juvenile resides.

Position: Monitor

https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legisla State Bill Page: tion/legislation-summary?id=GA135-

HB-314

TOWNSHIP LAW CHANGES (HALL T, SEITZ HB315

B) To make various township law changes and to make an appropriation.

Position: Support

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legisla

Page: tion/legislation-summary?id=GA135-

HB-315

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE LAWS (SEITZ B, HB322

ABRAMS C) To impose a civil penalty, rather than a criminal penalty, on a person who fails to register with the childhood sexual abuse civil registry, to eliminate the residence restriction on such person, to create the offense of grooming, and to extend the limitation period for prosecuting a violation of the law requiring certain persons to report child abuse or neglect under certain circumstances.

Position: Support

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legisla tion/legislation-summary?id=GA135-Page:

HB-322

CATALYTIC CONVERTERS (ROEMER B, HB328

PLUMMER P) Regarding the sale of used catalytic converters.

Position: Support

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legisla Page: tion/legislation-summary?id=GA135-

HB-328

HB331 VILLAGE DISSOLUTION (MATHEWS A,

YOUNG T) To modify the law regarding village

dissolution.

Position: Monitor

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati Page: on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-

331

HB351 PROHIBIT ABUSE OF COMPANION ANIMAL

CORPSE (YOUNG T) To prohibit the abuse of a companion animal corpse.

Position: Oppose

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-

35

HB354 MODIFY MARIJUANA LAW (CALLENDER J) To

modify the law governing the cultivation, processing, dispensing, testing, and taxation of adult use cannabis and to levy a gross receipts tax on marijuana cultivators.

Position: Amend

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati

Page: on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-

354

HB366 FIGHT ORGANIZED RETAIL CRIME ACT

(GHANBARI H) To enact the Fight Organized Retail Crime and Empower Law Enforcement (FORCE) Act to create the Organized Retail Theft Advisory Council and an investigative task force, to create the crime of theft of mail, to modify theft offenses and penalties related to retail property.

Position: Amend

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati
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366

HB367 PROHIBIT UNAUTHORIZED DEEPFAKES

(MATHEWS A, HILLYER B) To make changes to the law relating to the unauthorized use of an individual's persona and to prohibit certain unauthorized deepfake recordings.

Position: Support

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati

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367

HB377 HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION ACT

(WILLIAMS J, SANTUCCI N) To enact the Human Trafficking Prevention Act to increase the penalty for human trafficking of a minor or person with a developmental disability, kidnapping, and abduction.

Position: Amend

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati
Page: on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-

377

HB392 ADD NITROGEN HYPOXIA AS EXECUTION

METHOD (STEWART B, PLUMMER P) To add nitrogen hypoxia as a method of execution and to prohibit the disclosure of execution identifying information.

Position: Support

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati Page: on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-

392

HB401 CREATE OFFENSE OF DEEPFAKE

DISTRIBUTION (MILLER K, DEMETRIOU S) To create the offense of nonconsensual distribution of a deepfake.

Position: Amend

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati
Page: on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-

401

HB429 TRAFFIC OFFENSES IN CONSTRUCTION

ZONES (CLICK G, JOHNSON M) Regarding traffic offenses in construction zones.

Position: Amend

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati

Page: on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-

429

HB450 PROHIBIT VOYEURISM THROUGH DRONES

(LAMPTON B, YOUNG T) To prohibit voyeurism, criminal trespass, and aggravated criminal trespass through the use of an unmanned aerial vehicle system.

Position: Amend

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-

450

HB460 AUTOMATIC SEALING-CRIMINAL RECORDS

(HILLYER B, SEITZ B) To enact the Getting Rehabilitated Ohioans Working Act to allow for the automatic sealing of certain criminal records.

Position: Oppose

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati
Page: on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-

460

HB478 EXPEDITED REMOVAL-UNAUTHORIZED

OCCUPANTS (EDWARDS J, LARE J) To provide for the expedited removal of unauthorized occupants of residential property and to prohibit the use and sale of fraudulent deeds.

Position: Amend

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-

478

HB480 EXPEDITED REMOVAL-UNAUTHORIZED OCCUPANTS (YOUNG T, DEMETRIOU S) To

provide for the expedited removal of unauthorized occupants of residential property, to prohibit the use and sale of fraudulent deeds, and to declare an emergency.

Position: Amend

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati
Page: on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-

480

HB486 AISHA'S LAW (CARRUTHERS S, BRENT J) To

make changes to civil and criminal law regarding domestic violence, to address State Highway Patrol arrest authority, to name the act Aisha's Law, and to make an appropriation.

Position: Monitor

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati
Page: on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-

486

HB497 VARIOUS CHANGES TO COUNTY LAW

(STEWART B, KLOPFENSTEIN R) To make various changes regarding county law and to amend the version of section 153.39 of the Revised Code that is scheduled to take effect January 1, 2025, to continue the change on and after that date.

Position: Monitor

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati
Page: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati
on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-

497

HB513 MODIFY CRIMINAL PROVISIONS ON HIV,

AIDS (CARRUTHERS S) To modify definitions and criminal and professional disciplinary provisions relating to HIV or AIDS and to amend the versions of sections 2950.11 and 2950.13 of the Revised Code that are scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2025, to continue the change on and after that date.

Position: Oppose

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati

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513

HB514 BMV - ANNUAL JURY SOURCE LIST (SIMS V,

THOMAS C) To require names submitted by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to be included on the annual jury source list.

Position: Oppose

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati
Page: on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-

514

HB522 REPEAT OFFENDER ACT (WILLIS B,

WILLIAMS J) To enact the Repeat Offender Act to create a repeat offender classification, to create certain specifications, to increase the penalties for certain firearm offenses and specifications, to broaden the scope of relief from firearms disability, and to allow automatic sealing for fourth and fifth degree felonies.

Position: Oppose

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-

522

HB525 ASSAULT ON SCHOOL EMPLOYEES, VOLUNTEERS (BRENNAN S, PIZZULLI

J) Regarding the penalty for assault when the victim is a school employee or volunteer.

Position: Oppose

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati Page: on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-

525

HB531 SEXUAL EXTORTION PROHIBITIONS, VICTIM COMPENSATION (LEAR B, LORENZ

B) To enact Braden's Law to prohibit sexual extortion and aggravated sexual extortion and to allow family of certain victims of aggravated sexual extortion to receive compensation from the crime victims compensation fund.

Position: Support

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-

531

HB532 PEACE OFFICER EXPANSION-COURT

OFFICIALS (LORENZ B) To expand the definition of "peace officer" to include bailiffs of a municipal court and probation officers, and to increase the penalty for assault when the victim is a bailiff, probation officer, or another court official or employee.

Position: Amend

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati
Page: on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-

532

HB536 SEAT BELT USAGE REQUIREMENTS (CROSS

I. MILLER K) To make failure to wear a seat belt and failure to properly secure a child in the appropriate booster seat or seat belt a primary offense, rather than a secondary offense, and to make other specified changes regarding those offenses.

Position: Amend

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-Page:

HB551 FIREARM PROHBITION-PERSONS

ILLEGALLY IN U.S. (WIGGAM S) To prohibit persons who are unlawfully present in the United States from possessing firearms.

Position: Amend

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-Page:

551

HB556 OBSCENITY LIABILITY-TEACHERS,

LIBRARIANS (MATHEWS A) To create criminal liability for certain teachers and librarians for the offense of pandering obscenity.

Position: Oppose

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati Page:

on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-

556

HB593 CRIMINAL CHILD ENTICEMENT

REQUIREMENTS (DELL'AQUILA R, WILLIAMS J) To require that a person act with a sexual motivation or an unlawful purpose to commit the offense of criminal child enticement.

Position:

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati Page:

on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-

HB594 NEW TRIAL FOR NEW EVIDENCE (JARRELLS

D, WILLIAMS J) To allow a person to file a motion for a new trial or a petition for postconviction relief if the person produces new evidence that would establish a strong probability of a different result at trial.

Position: Oppose

https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati State Bill

on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-Page:

HB603 VIOLATIONS OF COMMUNITY CONTROL

REPORTS (PAVLIGA G) To allow a sheriff or deputy sheriff to report violations of community control.

Position: Amend State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati Page:

on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-

HB615 CERTAIN CHILDREN IN NEED OF PROTECTIVE SERVICES (JONES D, WILLIAMS

I) To amend the versions of sections 109.65, 121.37, 2151.011, 2151.281, 2151.353, 2151.36, 2151.412, 5103.04, 5153.122, 5153.123, and 5153.16 of the Revised Code that are scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2025, to continue the changes on and after that date regarding abused, neglected, or dependent children as children in need of protective services.

Position: Oppose

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati

on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-Page:

SB9 LAW CHANGES-MEDICAL MARIJUANA

(HUFFMAN S, SCHURING K) To amend the law related to medical marijuana.

Position: Oppose

https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati State Bill on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-9 Page:

SB26 MARIJUANA-VEHICLE, WATERCRAFT USE

(MANNING N) To change the laws pertaining to operating a vehicle or watercraft while under the influence of marihuana and the admissibility of evidence for purposes of OVI statutes.

Position: Oppose

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati Page: on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-26

DRIVER'S LICENSE SUSPENSION CHANGES SB37

(BLESSING III L, INGRAM C) Regards driver's license suspension law; financial responsibility

Position: Oppose

https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati State Bill on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-37 Page:

SB51 SOS-ELECTION INTEGRITY DIVISION

(GAVARONE T) To establish the Election Integrity Division in the Office of the Secretary of State.

Position: Oppose

https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati State Bill on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-51 Page:

AGGRAVATED MENACING EXPANSION-**SB88**

UTILITIES (SMITH K, CIRINO J) To expand the offense of aggravated menacing to prohibit threatening a utility worker, cable operator worker, or broadband worker with intent to obstruct the operation of a utility.

Position: Oppose

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati Page: on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-88

SB100 TRACKING DEVICE PROHIBITIONS

(MANNING N, ANTONIO N) To generally prohibit a person from knowingly installing a tracking device or application on another person's property without the other person's consent or failing to remove or ensure removal of such a device or application from another person's property if the other person gave consent and subsequently revokes it.

Position: Support

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati

Page: on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-

SB101 DEATH PENALTY ABOLITION, JURY

SELECTION (ANTONIO N, HUFFMAN S) To abolish the death penalty and to modify the number of jurors that may be challenged in cases where a defendant may be sentenced to life imprisonment.

Position: Oppose

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-Page:

SB109 SEX OFFENSES, MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

(HACKETT R) Regarding sex offenses and individuals regulated by the State Medical Board and to amend the version of section 2305.111 of the Revised Code that is scheduled to take effect October 12, 2028, to continue the change on and after that date.

Position:

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati

on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-Page:

SB165 USED CATALYTIC CONVERTER SALES

(JOHNSON T) Regarding the sale of used catalytic converters, and to make an appropriation.

Position: Support

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati Page:

on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-

165

SB185 PUBLIC SERVICE WORKERS-RECORDS

EXEMPTION (LANDIS A) To exempt redaction request forms, affidavits, and the records of the work schedules of designated public service workers from disclosure under public records law.

Position: Monitor

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislatio Page: n/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-185

SB186 PROPERTY TAX REQUIREMENTS,

PROHIBITIONS (BLESSING III L, INGRAM C) To require payment of property taxes and assessments when a lot is split or transferred and to generally prohibit taxdelinquent property owners from purchasing taxforeclosed property.

Position: Support

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislatio n/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-186 Page:

DRUG OFFENSES-TABLET SPECIFICATIONS SB193

(HOAGLAND F, JOHNSON T) To add drug offenses committed by a major drug offender to the definition of "specified offenses" used in terrorism offenses, to modify the offense of terrorism, to prohibit possession of an encapsulating or tableting machine, and to create the pill press mold, encapsulating machine, and tableting machine registry.

Position: Oppose

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislatio n/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-193 Page:

SB217 AI TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS, **PROHIBITIONS** (BLESSING III L, JOHNSON

T) To require AI-generated products have a watermark, to prohibit simulated child pornography, and to prohibit identity fraud using a replica of a person.

Position:

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislatio Page: n/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-217

ENACT FORCE ACT-ORGANIZED RETAIL SB223

THEFT (LANG G, RULLI M) To enact the Fight Organized Retail Crime and Empower Law Enforcement (FORCE) Act to create the Organized Retail Theft Advisory Council and an investigative task force, to modify theft offenses and penalties related to retail property, and to make an appropriation.

Position: Amend

https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legisla State Bill tion/legislation-summary?id=GA135-Page:

SB-223

EXTENDING PROPERTY PROTECTION SB226

LAWS (JOHNSON T) To extend the law that prohibits certain governments, businesses, and individuals from acquiring agricultural land to certain other property and to name this act the Ohio Property Protection Act.

Position: Monitor

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati Page: on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-

SB241 EXPEDITED REMOVAL-RENTAL

OCCUPANTS (HUFFMAN S, BRENNER A) To provide for the expedited removal of unauthorized occupants of residential property and to prohibit the use and sale of fraudulent deeds.

Position:

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati

on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-Page:

241

SB263 ENACT BRADEN'S LAW (BRENNER A) To enact

Braden's Law to prohibit sexual extortion and aggravated sexual extortion and to allow family of certain victims of aggravated sexual extortion to receive compensation from the crime victims compensation fund.

Position: Support

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati Page:

on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-

263

INCLUDE BMV NAMES-JURY SOURCE LIST SB298

(SYKES V, BLESSING III L) To require names submitted by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to be included on the annual jury source list.

Position:

State Bill https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislati Page: on/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-

actionTRACK - Hannah News Service, Inc.

New and Noteworthy



Merit Decisions of Interest Since 5/1/24

State v. Jones, ____ Ohio St.3d ____, 2024-Ohio-2719. Although disagreeing on the jurisdictional basis allowing it to review the appellate court's mid-appeal partial remand on ineffectiveness-related suppression issues, the Court (7-0) agreed that the Court had jurisdiction to review the order and concluded that the mid-appeal partial remand was erroneous. (Decided 7-25-24; State's appeal; Hamilton County)

State v. Macklin, ___ Ohio St.3d ___, 2024-Ohio-2687. The Court (4-3) summarily reversed on the issue of the scope of the juvenile bindover, citing State v. Williams, 2024-Ohio-1433, and State v. Taylor, 2024-Ohio-1752, and remanding for the court of appeals to apply State v. Burns, 2022-Ohio-4606. (Decided 7-17-24; State's appeal; Cuyahoga County)

State v. Maldonado, ____ Ohio St.3d ____, 2024-Ohio-2652. The Court (5-2) held App.R. 26(A)(2) requires that a panel decision in a case must precede en banc consideration of an issue in that case by the court of appeals. (Decided 7-16-24; Cuyahoga County)

State v. Taylor, ____ Ohio St.3d ____, 2024-Ohio-1752. The Court (3-3-1) upheld the jury's guilty verdict on felony murder as not being outside the scope of the juvenile bindover and (7-0) held that the defendant's statements to police could not be suppressed on rightto-counsel grounds because the right to counsel had not attached at the time of the interrogation and because, even if the right had attached, he had validly waived his

right to counsel after being *Mirandized* and agreeing to talk without counsel. (Decided 5-9-24; State's appeal; Franklin County)

Newly-Accepted Criminal Law Cases Since 5/1/24

24-522 *State v. Reed* (1) Whether a pretrial motion to sever is properly denied when it only presents general assertions without a specific analysis of the facts; (2) Whether in-trial developments should be considered by an appellate court when it is reviewing the pretrial denial of a motion to sever; (3) Whether an appellate court must find that the trial court abused its discretion under both prongs of the severance test before it reverses the trial court's denial of the motion to sever; (4) Whether all judges sitting on the court of appeals must review and decide a request for en banc consideration. (State's appeal; Fairfield County)

24-401/539 State v. Clark (1) After the defendant's application for reopening has been granted, whether the appellate court must confirm its earlier judgment when the defendant in his briefing on reopening only addresses the legal issue that was omitted by appellate counsel and fails to address whether appellate counsel was ineffective in failing to present that issue, or whether it is presumed that such briefing raises a claim of appellate counsel ineffectiveness; (2) In the absence of briefing on appellate counsel ineffectiveness vis-à-vis the omitted legal issue, whether the appellate court should address the omitted legal issue as if it was being raised on an application for delayed reconsideration. (Medina County)

23-1242 *State v. Turner* (1) Whether the jurisdiction referenced in R.C. 2151.23(H) implicates jurisdiction over the case rather than subject-matter jurisdiction; (2) Whether, in a juvenile bindover case, the defendant's guilty plea waives challenges to the underlying bindover hearing because a grand jury determination supersedes the juvenile court's probable cause finding; (3) Whether the adult court had jurisdiction under R.C. 2151.23(H) to hear and determine the case. (State's appeal; Cuyahoga County) (accepted and held on 12-26-23; full briefing ordered 7-24-24)

24-669 *State v. Balmert* (1) For purposes of the aggravated vehicular assault (AVA) charge, whether the

State provided sufficient evidence that the defendant's OVI-metabolite violation was a proximate cause of the injuries; (2) After a bench trial, whether the trial court's acquittal of the defendant on the OVI-impaired count created a double jeopardy bar that should have prevented the appellate court from relying on evidence of impairment in upholding the guilty finding on the AVA charge. (Lorain County)

24-540/541 *State v. Musarra* (1) Whether the nonelement of venue is a proper basis for a mid-trial Crim.R. 29(A) "judgment of acquittal"; (2) Whether a purported "acquittal" based on venue under Crim.R. 29(A) constitutes a "final verdict" that bars the State from pursuing an appeal by leave under R.C. 2945.67(A). (State's appeal; Cuyahoga County)

24-657 *State v. Kennedy* Whether the trial court's erroneous "reinstatement" of the defendant as a sexual predator is void and can be challenged by motion practice several years later even though the order in question was not timely appealed by the defendant. (Mahoning County)

24-474 *State v. Brown* Whether the evidence of venue in Henry County was insufficient on the corrupt-activity charge when the connection of the enterprise to the drug sales in Henry County was solely as a supplier of the drugs on credit to the offender who then took the drugs to Henry County and sold them there. (Henry County)

24-532 *State v. Crawl* Whether the offense of stalking was demonstrated under R.C. 2903.211(A)(1) when the defendant's posts to the victim's public social media platforms were non-threatening and the victim gave no indication that the victim thought the comments were offensive, unwanted, or threatening. (Montgomery County)

24-458 *State v. Bostick* When evidence that the defendant was not the perpetrator of the crime is withheld from the defense and not discovered until after conviction, and when the exculpatory value of the evidence is dependent upon its credibility, whether a trial court must conduct an evidentiary hearing prior to ruling on a motion for new trial prompted by that evidence. (Cuyahoga County)

24-265 *State v. T.W.C.* (1) Whether the entry of a financial sanction of restitution as a civil judgment under R.C. 2929.18 obviates the underlying criminal financial sanction, and, even if it does, whether the "final discharge" requirement for sealing in R.C. 2953.32 necessitates payment of restitution when ordered as a "civil judgment"; (2) Whether the law requires the payment of restitution in order to achieve a final discharge for purposes of R.C. 2953.32 even when a victim has not pursued civil collection remedies. (State's appeal; Franklin County)

Recent Oral Arguments

23-1204 *State v. Wilcox* Whether video footage of the excited utterances of a witness in the immediate aftermath of a shooting is "testimonial" for purposes of the right to confrontation. (Argument on 7-9-24) (State's appeal; Hamilton County)

22-1458 State v. Duncan & 22-1449 State v. Miree Whether S.B. 175's elimination of the duty to retreat for self-defense as effective 4-6-21 applies to all trials held after the effective date of the act regardless of the date of offense. (Argument on 7-23-24) (Cuyahoga County)

23-1182 *State v. Kyles* Whether causing serious physical harm to a stray cat qualifies as cruelty to animals under R.C. 959.131(C), which states that no person shall knowingly cause serious physical harm to a companion animal, and under R.C. § 959.131(A)(1), which defines "companion animal" as including "any dog or cat regardless of where it is kept". (Argument on 7-23-24) (State's appeal; Cuyahoga County)

23-1501 *State v. Dunn* Whether the "vicinity of a juvenile" enhancement to drug trafficking can be proven by circumstantial evidence when the juvenile is found to be present and residing in the home when the evidence leading to the trafficking conviction is discovered and when other evidence shows that the defendant was using the home as a base of operations and the child resided there throughout the pertinent time period. (Argument on 7-23-24) (State's appeal; Geauga County)

23-1149 *State v. Riley* In a case involving an application for DNA testing, whether a trial court commits error when it immediately adopts the proposed judgment entry of one party without affording the other party a meaningful opportunity to be heard. (Argument on 7-24-24) (Cuyahoga County)

23-1289 *State v. Smith* Whether the victim's statements to police while in an ambulance being treated for injuries following a domestic assault by the defendant were admissible as non-testimonial hearsay under the "emergency exception" that is recognized in the *Crawford v. Washington* line of cases. (Argument on 7-24-24) (State's appeal; Cuyahoga County)

23-1299 *State v. Kennedy* (1) Whether judicial-release eligibility is determined separately for each stated prison term; (2) Whether the sentencing court can grant judicial release only on the stated prison term imposed by that court. (Argument on 7-24-24) (State's appeal; Franklin County)

Keep an Eye Out for These Cases Awaiting Decision

22-1290 *State v. Beatty* Whether the additional firearm terms above the minimum of two firearm terms authorized by R.C. 2929.14(B)(1)(g) are "discretionary" terms that avoid the requirement in R.C. 2929.14(C)(1)(a) that all mandatory firearm terms must be served consecutively. (Clermont County) (Argument on 9-13-23)

22-1227 & -1238 State v. Dunlap and 22-1229 & -1237 State v. Lewis Whether the police officer can continue the detention of a vehicle and its occupants to ask the driver for identification when the officer conducts a valid vehicle stop due to the legal status of the registered owner but learns upon approaching the vehicle that the driver is not the registered owner. (State's appeals; Geauga County) (Argument on 10-25-23)

23-654 *State v. Glover* (1) Whether trial and appellate courts applying R.C. 2929.14(C)(4) can give exclusive focus to the defendant's aggregate prison term when deciding whether consecutive sentencing is appropriate; (2) Whether the court of appeals violated the clear-and-convincing standard of review under R.C. 2953.08(G)(2) by substituting its

judgment for that of the sentencing court. (State's appeal; Hamilton County) (Argument on 2-7-24)

23-839 *State v. Mays* Whether the requirement in R.C. 2945.75(A)(2) that a "guilty verdict shall state either the degree of the offense of which the offender is found guilty, or that such additional element or elements are present" can be satisfied by a guilty-verdict form that cites the statutory subsection so as to permit the defendant to be convicted of the higher-degree offense. (Certified-conflict appeal; Lucas County) (Argument on 3-12-24)

23-1024 *State v. Echols* Whether evidence of witness intimidation that tends to establish consciousness of guilt also constitutes a prior bad act of a defendant for which a court must conduct its analysis under Evid.R. 404(B) and the framework set forth in *State v. Hartman*. (Hamilton County) (Argument on 4-9-24)

Ohio Attorney General Opinions

provided by the Ohio Attorney General's website at https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Files/Legal/Opinions

2024-004

Requested by: Logan County Prosecuting Attorney

Whether a composting facility is considered "agriculture" under R.C.
519.01 and exempt from township zoning resolutions under R.C.
519.21(A) is a question of fact to be determined by the township; and, if not considered agriculture, can only be regulated as a conditional use if it is a specifically permitted as a conditional use in the township's zoning laws. If a composting facility is not agriculture, and therefore subject to township zoning laws, it must comply with the township zoning laws even if it has obtained a permit from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. Revised Code 519.23-.24 provides the procedure if there is any dispute over the applicability of township zoning laws to a composting facility.

Outreach



Butler County Prosecutor Mike Gmoser was nice enough to share his latest outreach newsletter with us. Here is one excerpt of interest. The entire newsletter is available at https://www.ohiopa.org/newsletter62024.pdf

Top 6 Scams to Watch out for in 2024!

By Patrick J. Kiger, AARP

This article is not exactly as the author has written; some parts have been left out or paraphrased.

1. Check cooking" scam

In 2023, there was a surge of thieves stealing checks from postal boxes, mailboxes, and mail carriers, and then washing the checks with chemicals, leaving only the signature. The thief would then change the payee and amount of the check allowing them to cash the check, usually for thousands of dollars.

Now in 2024, the thieves have discovered an easier way to steal. In check cooking, thieves take a digital picture of a stolen check and then use commercially available software to alter it. If you still choose to write paper checks, use the following cautions:

- Drop it off at the post office, instead of a mailbox.
- Continually monitor your bank account and immediately report suspicious transactions.

2. Voiceprint scams

This is where AI technology is used. Thieves capture a recording of your voice and use a software program to generate an imitation "deepfake" version that can be used to impersonate you. They call your bank and request money be sent elsewhere. To prevent this from happening, AARP recommends you:

• Don't answer the phone, unless you know the person calling you, and even then make sure you know who you are talking to.

3. Delayed-action sweepstakes scam

Sweepstakes scams have been around for a long time. In the past, scammers ask victims to send money for taxes before the award can be delivered. Now, the scammers are asking for banking information and social security number, explaining they will file with the IRS for you. Surprise, you're now a victim of Identity Theft. Scammers will start making small deductions from your bank accounts to see if you notice, then move to larger deductions. They also use your information to obtain credit cards and lines of credit in your name that can give them a bigger pay day down the road. If you get one of these calls, remember:

- If it seems too good to be true, it probably is!
- If you get a call from someone claiming that you've won a huge prize, the safest bet is to just hang up. And never, ever provide any personal information.

4. Virtual celebrity scam

Fans have become accustomed to constant virtual intimacy with celebrities through social media. If you're on Facebook or Instagram, and someone pretending to be Celine Dion or her manager reaches out to you, it is

more than likely an imposter. For example, if it's a fake manager, they may say that Celine loves your comments and would love to talk to you. Here's her private account, but after you connect to it, the talk gradually turns to how her fortune is tied up and she could use a \$50,000 loan from you. If you get a direct message from someone claiming to be a famous performer or superstar athlete, or someone representing them, be very, very skeptical. It's almost certain to be a scam!

5. Multi-stage grandparent scam

This well know scam is still around, but more sophisticated. Scammers set up call centers with young people posing as grandchildren who have been jailed after a car accident. They are paid for every grandparent they connect with and give a case number to, instructing the grandparent to provide that number to the defense attorney or local prosecutor when they talk to them. When the grandparent calls back, the scammers say, "Oh, do you have the case number?" It is a psychological trick to see whether the grandparent is compliant and will follow instructions to send thousands or even tens of thousands of dollars.

6. Paris Olympics scams

Criminals try to find ways to exploit big events that are in the news. With the Paris games coming up this summer, more than likely we will begin to see the revival of the fake emergency scam, which bears similarities to the grandparent scam. It could work something like this: A scammer hacks someone's email account, and shortly after, all of that person's contacts will receive the same message—something to the effect of, "Hey guys, I'm over in Paris and my wallet was stolen! Can anyone please help me out by sending gift cards or a Venmo deposit?" Olympic Officials are also warning ticket seekers to avoid bogus ticketing sites and scam emails purporting to be from Paris2024.org (the official website for the games) or the Olympic committee.



OPAA Training

The 2024 OPAA Summer Workshop held June 21st and 22nd was attended by 177 prosecutors and assistant prosecutors representing 53 counties along with the OAG. The training was held once again at Breakers Cedar Point.



Phil Bogdanoff starts the criminal track with his presentation on alleged juror misconduct, tampering and the Alex Murdaugh case.



Ryan Stubenrauch from Communications Counsel got the civil track started with a presentation on social media and the first amendment.



Blue skies were a welcome sight after the weather we have had for the past few years!

Thanks to all who attended. All CLE credits have been reported to the Supreme Court of Ohio.

More photos are available on our X feed



2024 OPAA Trainings

Fall Training September 19th and 20th Crowne Plaza Cleveland at Playhouse Square note: agenda has been mailed, emailed, and is available on our website.

Administrative Professionals Training October 17 October 17th - Marriott Columbus Northwest

Annual Meeting December 12th and 13th Hilton Columbus at Easton

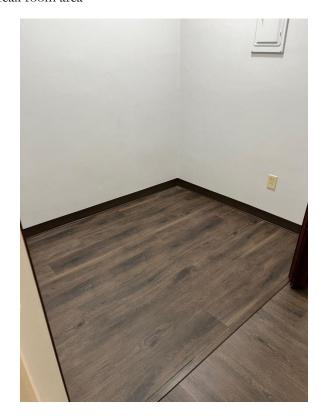
Online self-study webinars have been approved for another year of CLE credit. A list of available topics is located at https://www.ohiopa.org/members.html

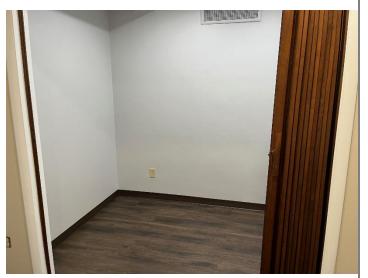
At the Office

Work is coming to an end on the third floor renovations and the new tenants are due in August 1! We welcome the Ohio Network of Children's Advocacy Centers to 196! Here are some before and after pictures:



Break room area

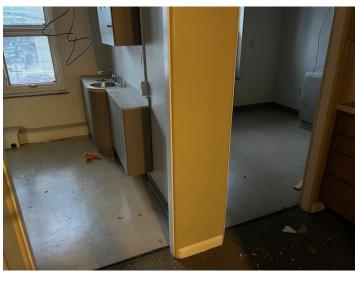














Old dental lab (2 angles)





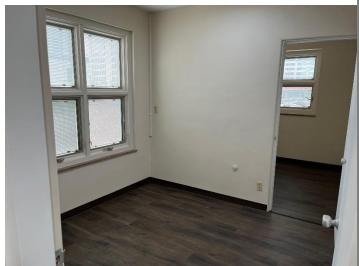






















OPAA on the road

As mentioned at the beginning of this newsletter, some photos from Boise during the National Association of Prosecutor Coordinators conference.



Idaho capitol building



Dinner prepared by a local Basque chef in recognition of the Basque influence on Boise and Idaho



Old Idaho Penitentiary



Old Idaho Penitentiary

2024 OPAA Executive and Legislative Committee Meeting Dates

July - No Meeting

August – Thursday, August 22nd, Urbana Country Club September – Wednesday, September 18th, Crowne Plaza Cleveland at Playhouse Square (prior to Fall Training)

October – Thursday, October 24th

November - No Meeting

December – Wednesday, December 11th, Hilton Columbus at Easton (prior Annual Meeting).



Your 2024 OPAA Officers



Kevin S. Talebi Champaign County President



Keller J. Blackburn Athens County President-Elect



David P. Fornshell Warren County Vice President



Gwen Howe-Gebers Henry County Treasurer



Steven D. Barnett Carroll County Secretary