



Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association



2025 OPAA SUMMER WORKSHOP

June 19th – 21st, 2025

Hotel Breakers Cedar Point, Sandusky, Ohio

We once again will meet on the shores of Lake Erie to educate the membership and enjoy the other activities the area provides. As usual, we will provide both a criminal law track and a civil law track. The criminal side will have presentations on deciphering DNA in the courtroom; usage and cases involving the MX908 mass spectrometer; effectively using technology in the courtroom; and a look at recurring issues when prosecuting capital cases. On the civil side we will explore representing fire districts; township healthcare concerns; village dissolutions and HB331; cemetery law; and FMLA/ADA and other employee medical issues. We look forward to seeing all of you at Cedar Point!

Thursday will consist of committee meetings in the afternoon, and a welcoming reception in the evening. A family dinner is scheduled for Friday evening, and a family breakfast for Saturday morning. As usual, training sessions will be held on Friday and Saturday mornings.

The two-day member registration fee of \$350.00 (double for non-members) and one day registration fee of \$200.00 (double for non-members) includes all training, handout materials, Friday's continental breakfast, and all breaks for registrants. In addition, it includes the Thursday evening reception, Friday evening dinner, and Saturday morning breakfast for the registrant and spouse or significant other (please see details regarding additional guests on page 7). In the event of cancellations after Thursday June 5th, the assessment will be \$175.00 (both days) and \$110.00 (one day), to partially cover the cost of meals which will have been guaranteed by that date. Complete details of activities appear in the activities section of this mailing.

GUEST ROOM RESERVATIONS and TAX EXEMPTION: Tax Exemption Certificates must be sent to Hotel Breakers and not with your registration form to OPAA. Cedar Point now uses the standard Ohio Exemption Form regarding guest rooms.

GUEST ROOMS CANCELLATIONS: There is a penalty for cancellation of guest rooms. If it becomes necessary to cancel a room, please contact Diana first at (614-221-1266) or diana@ohiopa.org. We often have a waiting list of people who need rooms, and we could not only assist them but save you a cancellation fee.

OPAA REGISTRATION DESK: The registration desk will be open from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 19th at the Hotel Breakers Main Lobby (located in front of the TOMO Hibachi Restaurant), and again from 8:00 a.m. to noon on both Friday, June 20th and Saturday, June 21st at the Hotel Breakers East Conference Center Lobby (located by the Poolside Parlor).

WELCOMING RECEPTION: A welcoming reception will be held in the Lakeside Pavilion from 5:30-7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 19th. See reception details in the activities section. **Matrix Pointe Software is graciously sponsoring the bar again.**

FRIDAY EVENING DINNER: A family dinner buffet will be served in the Lakeside Pavilion from 5:30-7:00 p.m. on Friday, June 20th. **Meal coupons must be presented to participate.** See dinner details in the activities section.

SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST BUFFET: A family breakfast buffet will be served in the Lakeside Dining Room from 7:00-9:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 21st. **Meal coupons must be presented to participate.** See breakfast details in the activities section.

DISCOUNT PARKING PASSES & TICKETS TO THE AMUSEMENT PARK: See details in the activities section.

Thursday, June 19th

2:00 – 5:00	REGISTRATION - Hotel Breakers Main Lobby
5:30 – 7:00	WELCOMING RECEPTION – Lakeside Pavillion (sponsored in part by Matrix Software)

Friday, June 20th

8:00 – 12:00	<u>REGISTRATION</u> - Hotel Breakers East Conference Center Lobby (Located by the Poolside Parlor)
8:00 – 12:00	<u>CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST</u> (in or near the training rooms)

CRIMINAL TRAINING

Cedar Point Convention Center Located Behind the Pavilion Areas SE of the Hotel Breakers

9:00 – 10:45	<u>DNA In the Courtroom</u> DNA has quickly become the “gold standard” for forensic evidence. It can damn the guilty, exonerate the innocent, and is generally expected to be present and tested in every case by the lay public. But what is it and how did DNA rise to such prominence? This session is meant to provide the novice with a basic working knowledge of forensic DNA analysis, including history and current techniques. Then, we will build on this understanding by attempting to answer the question: Are DNA results always reliable or relevant? We will introduce, explore, and review DNA results and expert
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conclusions, and perhaps most importantly, what reported statistics mean, or don't mean and how they can help the prosecuting attorney.

Crystal Oechsle
Instructor of Forensic Biology
Center for the Future of Forensic Science
Bowling Green State University

10:45 - 11:00

Break

11:00 - 12:00

MX908 In Ohio Drug Investigations

The MX908 is a handheld, portable mass spectrometer used around the world to conduct chemical, explosive, and drug testing within minutes. It is used by numerous state and federal agencies, the military, and various HazMat operations to name a few. This presentation will focus on who is using the device in Ohio, how it is being utilized, and the steps that the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) has taken to help make the MX908 test results reliable for criminal proceedings connected to drug investigations.

Amanda M. White, Forensic Scientist
Megan Snyder, Forensic Scientist
Both with Ohio BCI
Office of Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost and
Christopher R. Tunnell, Prosecutor
Ashland County

5:30 - 7:00

Family Dinner with Cash Bar – Lakeside Pavillion

CIVIL TRAINING

Breakers East Conference Center located near the Poolside Parlor

9:00 - 10:00

Beyond the Fireline: Navigating the Unique Legal Challenges in Representing Fire Departments in Labor Matters

Representing fire departments in labor matters presents a distinct set of legal challenges shaped by the unique structure, culture, and demands of the fire service. From 24-hour shift schedules and dual-role classifications to the complexities of a paramilitary chain of command, legal counsel must navigate a landscape unlike any other in the public sector. This session will explore the legal nuances of collective bargaining, employee discipline, safety-related disputes, and labor relations in departments that often blend volunteer, part-time, and career personnel. Attendees will gain insights into recent case law developments, and best practices for effectively advocating within this high-stakes environment.

Mason P. Mackovjak
Zashin & Rich
Columbus, Ohio

10:00 - 10:15

Break

10:15 – 11:15

Township Healthcare in Transition: Navigating Trustee Coverage and Healthcare Sharing Reimbursements

As healthcare costs rise and alternative models gain popularity, many townships are grappling with how to provide or reimburse healthcare for employees and trustees, especially when traditional insurance is replaced by healthcare sharing arrangements. This session will examine the legal authority surrounding trustee healthcare benefits, the implications of reimbursing non-insurance healthcare models, and the patchwork of approaches across the state. We'll explore key statutory interpretation issues, recent guidance from oversight entities, ethical considerations for trustees, and real-world examples that highlight the risks and responsibilities of township decision-makers. Whether you're advising a township board or seeking clarity on allowable reimbursements, this session will offer practical guidance grounded in legal analysis.

***Mason P. Mackovjak
Zashin & Rich
Columbus, Ohio***

11:15 – 12:00

Village Dissolutions, Then and Now

This session will provide an in-depth discussion of the longstanding process of Village dissolution in Ohio, as well as a new dissolution process created by HB 331 in 2025. We will also address inside/ outside millage issues, including what happens to inside millage following dissolution. All will assist county prosecutors in representing their statutory clients through this sometimes “tedious” process.

***Paul S. Rutter, Partner and
Amelia N. Blankenship, Of Counsel
Both with Bricker Graydon LLP***

5:30 - 7:00

Family Dinner with Cash Bar – Lakeside Pavillion

Saturday, June 21

8:00 – 12:00

**REGISTRATION - Hotel Breakers East Conference Center Lobby
(Located by the Poolside Parlor)**

CRIMINAL TRAINING

Cedar Point Convention Center Located Behind the Pavilion Areas SE of the Hotel Breakers

7:00 - 9:30

Family Breakfast Buffet – Lakeside Dining Room

9:00 - 10:30

Courtroom Technology and the Visual Trial: The Alec Baldwin Shooting

Hannah Gutierrez Reed, the armorer of the film “Rust” was found guilty of Involuntary Manslaughter for the 2021 on-set fatal shooting of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins. Alec Baldwin fired the fatal bullet believing that the gun was a cold gun and did not contain live ammunition. At Ms. Reed’s trial the prosecutor relied on visual evidence, film, pictures, and visual enhancements to prove that Ms. Reed’s reckless conduct caused the death of Halyna Hutchins. Jurors crave visual evidence, and studies

indicate that the human brain quickly processes visual information and that we retain sixty percent of what we see and only ten to twenty percent of what we read and hear. In this presentation, attendees will watch film clips of this trial and learn evidentiary foundations to admit visual evidence and to successfully display this evidence to the jury. The goal of this presentation is for attendees to understand the benefits of using visual evidence and obtain technological skills to seamlessly present this evidence in court.

Philip Bogdanoff
Retired Career Prosecutor

10:30 - 10:45

Break

10:45 - 12:00

Prosecuting a Capital Case in Ohio

This presentation will highlight some recurring issues in the indictment and prosecution of capital cases in Ohio, including: what makes the case a “capital” case; the new “serious mental illness” statutory defense to the death penalty; the intellectual-disability defense; “death qualification” and “life qualification” of jurors; how the capital weighing process works; some key “do’s and don’ts” in a penalty-phase closing argument, and the possible impact of Marsy’s Law on the penalty phase.

Steven L. Taylor, Legal Research and Staff Counsel
Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association

CIVIL TRAINING

Breakers East Conference Center located near the Poolside Parlor

7:00 - 9:30

Family Breakfast Buffet – Lakeside Dining

9:00 - 10:15

The Grave Legal Requirements of Cemeteries

Benjamin Franklin is attributed with having stated there are only two certainties in life: death and taxes. As a result, it is very likely that at some point, you will be asked a question pertaining to a cemetery. For example, guidance may be sought regarding the following: Who’s body is it? What do we do with it now that we have found it? Do we have to pay for the burial? Is this a burial site? How do we abandon the cemetery? Can we launch our 4th of July Fireworks from there? This session will provide discussion and a general overview regarding the obligations that certain public entities have with respect to cemeteries.

Benjamin S. Albrecht, Partner
Fishel Downey Albrecht & Riepenhoff, LLP
New Albany

10:15 - 10:30

Break

10:30 - 12:00

Understanding the Interplay of the FMLA, ADA and Other Employee Medical Issues

In 2023, the DOL Wage and Hour Division pursued 334 FMLA compliance actions against employers and recovered nearly \$1 million in back wages on behalf of employees. Those 334 FMLA compliance actions maintained by the DOL do not include lawsuits filed by employees against their employers.

Similarly, the EEOC investigated 33,668 claims of disability discrimination in 2025. As a result, it is imperative that public employers respond appropriately to employee leave requests and claims for accommodation due to a disability. Additionally, the recreational use of marijuana, as well as medical marijuana use by employees, further complicates the matter for public employers. This presentation will review the general legal requirements of both the FMLA and ADA. Additionally, discussion will occur regarding other issues related to employee leave, such as discipline for abuse/misuse, medical marijuana, fitness for duty exams and the disability separation process. Finally, practice tips will be provided in order to minimize the risk of liability for public employers.

Benjamin S. Albrecht, Partner

Fishel Downey Albrecht & Riepenhoff, LLP
New Albany

WE HAVE APPLIED FOR 5.5 GENERAL CREDIT HOURS FOR THIS TRAINING FROM
THE SUPREME COURT OF OHIO COMMISSION ON CONTINUING LEGAL
EDUCATION



Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association



REGISTRATION FORM

2025 OPAA SUMMER WORKSHOP

Return to: Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association OR Email: diana@ohiopa.org
196 East State Street, Suite 200
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Please register the following OPAA members for the OPAA Summer Workshop on Friday, June 20th and Saturday, June 21st, 2025

NAME	TITLE	EMAIL ADDRESS <u>(MUST HAVE)</u>	FRI & SAT	FRI ONLY	SAT ONLY
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Check number _____ for \$_____ is enclosed.

The two-day member registration fee is \$350.00 (\$700.00 for all non-members) In the event of cancellations after Thursday, June 5th the assessment will be \$175.00, to partially cover the cost of meals which will have been guaranteed by that date. If a registrant is only attending one day, the registration fee is \$200.00 (\$400.00 for all non-members), with an assessment of \$110.00 for cancellations after Thursday, June 5th. **Please return the training registration form to OPAA by Thursday, June 5th.**

County Elected Prosecuting Attorney Signature

SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS: If anyone in your party has special dietary needs, contact Diana by Thursday, June 5th. OPAA will accommodate requests if they can be supplied by the venue at no additional cost. Any additional cost must be borne by the registrant, and they will be notified in advance.

OPAA SUMMER WORKSHOP ACTIVITIES

JUNE 19th – 21st , 2025
HOTEL BREAKERS (CEDAR POINT)
SANDUSKY, OHIO

Fill out the **Activities Registration Form** and mail (along with payment where applicable for additional meals) **no later than June 5th** to OPAA to ensure that you and/or your family have a reserved spot for the functions you have chosen. If you are not participating in any activities, simply mark the form “not participating.”

THURSDAY, JUNE 19th – WELCOMING RECEPTION

A family meal and host bar will be held in the Lakeside Pavilion from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. **Matrix Pointe Software** will again sponsor the bar. *Be sure to stop by their table at the back of the Criminal Track room to say hello and thank them for their generosity.*

FRIDAY, JUNE 20th – FAMILY DINNER AND REFRESHMENTS

A family dinner buffet will be held from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. in the Lakeside Pavilion. The registration fee covers the dinner for registrants and spouse or significant other. **A cash bar will be available during the dinner.**
****Please see information below regarding costs for additional guests. Meal tickets are required.**

SATURDAY, JUNE 21st – FAMILY BREAKFAST BUFFET

A family breakfast buffet will be served from 7:00 – 9:30 a.m. in the Lakeside Dining Room which is located behind the Pavilion Area. The registration fee covers breakfast for the registrant and spouse or significant other.
****Please see information below regarding costs for additional guests. Meal tickets are required.**

****MEAL FEES FOR ADDITIONAL GUESTS:**

It is necessary to charge a fee for all guests other than the registrant's spouse or significant other at the Family Dinner Buffet and Family Breakfast Buffet. There is no charge for the Welcoming Reception.

The charges are as follows: **Children 2 and under, no charge; Adults and children 3 and older (yes, Cedar Point considers them to be adults and charges accordingly), dinner \$37.90 per person; breakfast \$20.55 per person (sales tax of 6.75% included in price).**

Payment for additional meals must be made at the time the activity registration form is returned to OPAA, as meal tickets WILL NOT be issued until payment is received!

SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS: If anyone in your party has special dietary needs, contact Diana by Thursday, June 5th. OPAA will accommodate requests if they can be supplied by the venue at no additional cost. Any additional cost must be borne by the registrant, and they will be notified in advance.

CEDAR POINT AMUSEMENT PARK DISCOUNT TICKETS: OPAA is able to provide our group with a discount price including tax of \$44.82 (ages 3 and older) per person per day. Children 2 and under are free. All Amusement Park tickets are now being sold digitally directly through the Cedar Point Store. OPAA's log in credentials are: www.cedarpoint.com/save with Username: OPAA and the Password: opaa (both are case sensitive). Since all tickets are now being done digitally directly through Cedar Point, OPAA **will not** be selling paper Cedar Point Amusement Park Tickets at the OPAA Registration Desk. Tickets will be valid for one day only (Thursday, June 19th; Friday, June 20th; Saturday, June 21st, or Sunday, June 22nd). Please check with Cedar Point for their combined or special passes for the parks.

CEDAR POINT DISCOUNT ON PARKING FOR REGISTRANTS NOT STAYING AT THE HOTEL BREAKERS ONLY: Cedar Point is offering OPAA a discount rate of \$14.58 (includes tax) per car/per day on parking vouchers and are also being sold digitally directly through the Cedar Point Store. OPAA's log in credentials are: www.cedarpoint.com/save with Username: OPAA and the Password: opaa (both are case sensitive). **For those registrants that are staying at the Hotel Breakers, your parking is included in your room cost.**

HOTEL BREAKERS GUEST ROOM INFORMATION: Be sure to follow all the Breakers' instructions below, as OPAA cannot intervene with guest room issues. The only exception to this is: **If it becomes necessary to cancel a room, please contact Diana (614-221-1266) before cancelling. We often have a waiting list of people wanting rooms and we might be able to assist them in obtaining a room and save you a cancellation fee!**

Please make your guest room reservation with the Cedar Point reservationist or online using OPAA's group code **OPAA25. ROOMS MUST BE BOOKED ON OR BEFORE 5/23/25.** If the credit card is not available at check-in, full payment must be made prior to the guest's arrival. For tax exemption to apply, an Ohio Sales Tax Exemption Form must be completed, and the reservationist will instruct you to fax or email it to them to give you your total with the tax exemption. If you have further questions when making the reservation, please feel free to ask for a supervisor. If you book online, you can then email the tax exemption form to jfosco@cedarpoint.com along with your confirmation number, and she will apply the tax exemption and send the balance due total to you at that time.

RESERVATIONS TELEPHONE NUMBER: 419-627-2106

GROUP CODE: OPAA25

ONLINE RESERVATIONS: <https://reservations.cedarpoint.com/cedarpoint/>

- **Cutoff Date for our hold/block of rooms is 5/23/25.**
- When using the online reservations link all boxes must be filled in before your room choices appear.
- When using the online reservations link - in the *Special Code* box select *group/block* and in the *Code Box* use *OPAA25*.
- Individuals (not group contact) are responsible for reservations, deposits, and cancellations.
- The first night's full payment is due at the time of the booking.
- Payment Plans may be arranged with a reservationist at the time of booking if preferred.
- A \$50.00 fee applies to any cancellation. First-night deposit is forfeited for any cancellation received within 72 hours of arrival.
- Rooms are on hold for Thursday, June 19, 2025, and Friday, June 20, 2025.

Standard rooms, non-lake view, 1 king bed (\$299+tax Thu night) (\$309+tax Fri night).

Standard rooms, lake view, 1 king bed (\$309+tax Thu night) (\$319+tax Fri night).

Standard rooms, non-lake view, 2 queen beds (\$349+tax Thu night) (\$359+tax Fri night).

Standard suite, non-lake view, 2 queen beds & a pullout sofa bed (\$409+tax Thu night) (\$419+tax Fri night).

Standard suite, lake view, 2 queen beds & a pullout sofa bed (\$429+tax Thu night) (\$439+tax Fri night).

THE TAX EXEMPTION FORM IS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE HOTEL BREAKERS AND NOT TO OPAA.

OPAA SUMMER WORKSHOP ACTIVITIES REGISTRATION FORM

WELCOMING RECEPTION (Thursday, June 19th) Meal Coupon Not Required

_____ Registrant
_____ # of Additional Adults (spouse or significant other, at no charge)
_____ # of Children 3 and older (see pricing information)
_____ # of children 2 years old or less (at no charge)
_____ I (we) will not be attending the welcoming reception.

FAMILY BUFFET DINNER (Friday, June 20th) Meal Coupon Required \$37.90

_____ Registrant
_____ # of Additional Adults (spouse or significant other, at no charge)
_____ # of Children 3 and older (see pricing information)
_____ # of children 2 years old or less (at no charge)
_____ I (we) will not be attending the family buffet dinner.

FAMILY BREAKFAST BUFFET (Saturday, June 21st) Meal Coupon Required \$20.55

_____ Registrant
_____ # of Additional Adults (spouse or significant other, at no charge)
_____ # of Children 3 and older (see pricing information)
_____ # of children 2 years old or less (at no charge)
_____ I (we) will not be attending the family breakfast buffet.

County

Name (Please Print Clearly)

As previously stated, the registration fee covers all meals for the registrant and spouse or significant other. However, there is a charge for all additional guests including children 3 and over. **Payment for additional guests is to be made at the time when the activities sheet is returned to OPAA. Please make checks payable to OPAA. Meal tickets WILL NOT be issued until payment is received.**

**TO ENSURE PARTICIPATION IN CHOSEN ACTIVITIES, EACH PERSON
REGISTERED MUST RETURN A COPY OF THIS REGISTRATION FORM BY
THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2025.**

(EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT TAKING PART IN ACTIVITIES, THE OPAA STAFF NEEDS THIS FORM. PLEASE WRITE "NOT PARTICIPATING" AND RETURN FORM.

Please Return Form to:

Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association
196 East State Street, Suite 200
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Fax: 614-221-0753 OR email to Diana at diana@ohiopa.org

