



THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO

ANNUAL REPORT
2008





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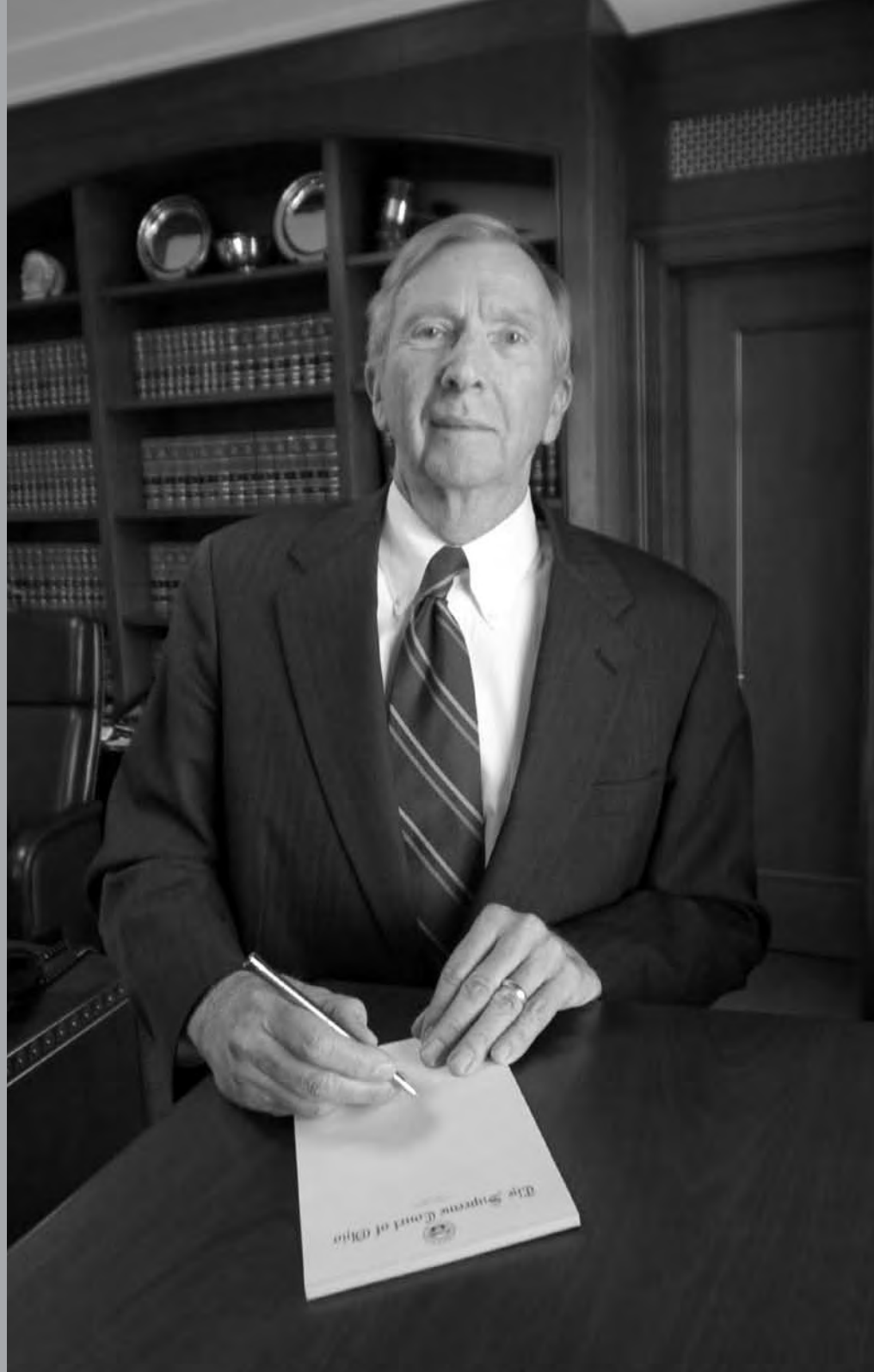
ANNUAL REPORT 2008

THOMAS J. MOYER
CHIEF JUSTICE

PAUL E. PFEIFER
EVELYN LUNDBERG STRATTON
MAUREEN O'CONNOR
TERRENCE O'DONNELL
JUDITH ANN LANZINGER
ROBERT R. CUPP
JUSTICES

STEVEN C. HOLLON
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

A Message from
the Chief Justice



Dear Citizens of Ohio:

2008 was a year of coming together for the Supreme Court of Ohio and the Ohio judicial branch. In countless ways, large and small, by unifying for a common cause, we succeeded in improving the administration of justice for Ohioans.

In May, more than 500 people met for the Ohio Summit on Children convened by Governor Ted Strickland and me. The Summit was a two-day event where judicial, executive and legislative leaders from every corner of the state worked to enhance the safety and well-being of Ohio children. We will reconvene in November 2009 to keep moving forward.

The three branches of Ohio government came together with partners in the legal community to form a statewide collaborative program to assist the growing number of Ohioans facing foreclosure. The Supreme Court partnered with the Ohio Department of Commerce and others to create *Save the Dream*, Ohio's extraordinary foreclosure assistance program that consolidates state resources and initiatives into one program that provides citizens with access to foreclosure assistance. In particular, the Court supported efforts to recruit and train more than 1,300 pro bono attorneys and to establish court-based foreclosure mediation programs in every county.

Other collaborative successes in 2008 included:

- The introduction of racial fairness training into New Judge Orientation.
- The statewide initiation of the Ohio Courts Network, which soon will link every Ohio court in a unified network for sharing case data and information.
- Development of a reference guide for judges using interpreters and a video for training court interpreters.

These and many more accomplishments are detailed in the pages that follow. The 2008 annual report is a testament to the good that comes when we work together. Through collective effort and dedication to the rule of law, we will continue to safeguard the rights of individuals and improve the administration of justice for Ohioans.



THOMAS J. MOYER



THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO 2008



Paul E. Pfeifer • Chief Justice Thomas J. Moyer • Evelyn Lundberg Stratton
Seated (left to right)

Judith Ann Lanzinger • Maureen O'Connor • Terrence O'Donnell • Robert R. Cupp
Standing (left to right)

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EDITOR'S NOTE

A compilation of syllabi and summaries of 2008 Supreme Court opinions summarized by the Office of Public Information is available as a separate publication.

Copies are available online at supremecourt.ohio.gov or by contacting the office directly at 614.387.9250.



Justices of the Supreme Court of Ohio

Thomas J. Moyer
Chief Justice

Paul E. Pfeifer
Evelyn Lundberg Stratton
Maureen O'Connor
Terrence O'Donnell
Judith Ann Lanzinger
Robert R. Cupp
Justices



CHIEF JUSTICE THOMAS J. MOYER is a leader in providing citizens with improved access to the courts through alternative dispute resolution and computer technology.

Since he became Chief Justice in 1987, Ohio has been a leader in providing substance-abuse treatment to nonviolent offenders. The Chief also works with leaders of the judiciary and the General Assembly to develop family courts, a comprehensive approach to resolving criminal and civil issues confronting families.

As chairman of the Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission, Chief Justice Moyer led efforts to revise Ohio felony, misdemeanor, traffic and juvenile sentencing laws adopted by the General Assembly. He also is in the forefront of efforts to improve the method of selecting judges in Ohio and worked with all interested parties to develop legislative proposals to increase reporting requirements for judicial campaign contributions, and to increase the minimum professional qualifications required of judicial candidates.

Chief Justice Moyer also works with lawyers and judges in other countries as they develop independent judiciaries. After Ukraine gained its independence, he led efforts to introduce Ukrainians to the importance of the rule of law and continues to host delegations from Ukraine on a regular basis. Chief Justice Moyer also worked with judicial leaders in China, Korea, Argentina and Chile.

The Chief received his law degree from The Ohio State University in 1964, and served eight years as a judge of the 10th District Court of Appeals in Franklin County, four years as executive assistant to the governor of Ohio and eight years in the private practice of law in Columbus.

Chief Justice Moyer serves as vice-chair of the Advanced Science and Technology Adjudication Resource Center, a national consortium to prepare judges for managing trials of a complex scientific nature.

In June 1989, he received the American Judicature Society Herbert Harley Award for improving the administration of justice in Ohio, and in January 2003, he was awarded the James F. Henry Award for exemplary alternative dispute resolution leadership in the state judiciary from the CPR Institute for Dispute Resolution. In addition, the National Client Protection Organization recognized Chief Justice Moyer with its 2008 Isaac Hecht Law Client Protection Award, given for demonstrated excellence in the field of law-client protection.



THOMAS J. MOYER
Chief Justice

2008 STAFF

Daniel W. Fausey
Kenneth Grose
Brandon J. Lester
Amber L. Merl
Kimberly R. Robinson
Joseph R. Smith
Melissa D. Uhlich



PAUL E. PFEIFER
Justice

2008 STAFF

Robert L. Burpee
Kevin Diehl
Sandra Wearly-Messer
James W. Sheridan

JUSTICE PAUL E. PFEIFER grew up on his family's dairy farm near Bucyrus. He still resides just down the road. As a teenager, he raised purebred Yorkshire hogs to finance his college education. Those years taught him the value of hard work, determination and clean overalls.

Justice Pfeifer's first job after graduating from OSU's law school was as an assistant attorney general trying eminent-domain cases associated with the building of Ohio's highway system. Traveling the state gave him an appreciation for Ohio's county courthouses, architectural jewels that are the crossroads of life in our towns and cities. He always tries to keep in mind how Supreme Court decisions might affect the people seeking justice in county courthouses every day.

In 1972, Justice Pfeifer became a partner in the law firm of Cory, Brown & Pfeifer, where he practiced — primarily as a trial and tax lawyer — for 20 years. He also served several years as an assistant county prosecutor.

Justice Pfeifer served in both houses of the Ohio General Assembly, including one term in the House of Representatives and four terms in the Senate. He held a variety of leadership posts in the Senate, and served as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee for 10 years. His proudest legislative accomplishment was crafting the legislation creating the Ohio Tuition Trust Authority.

Justice Pfeifer was first elected to the Supreme Court in 1992. For him, the most inspiring thing about the Court is that every voice gets heard, from that of the widow fighting for her husband's workers' compensation benefits, to those of corporations battling over tens of millions of dollars.

Justice Pfeifer began his third Supreme Court term in January 2005. His first boss, William Saxbe, administered the oath of office. At Justice Pfeifer's side was his wife, Julie, whom he first met when their steers were tied across from each other at the Crawford County Fair "more years ago than it would be polite to mention." Together, they have two daughters, Lisa and Beth, a son, Kurt, and four granddaughters.

Because of his career in state government, Justice Pfeifer has one foot in the capital city, but the other always remained firmly planted in his hometown, where he has his own farm now. He raises Black Angus cattle, and enjoys the time spent outdoors doing chores. He says there is clarity to life in the country, where there is no pomp and circumstance, just the green fields of Crawford County, a gaggle of grandkids who call him "Papa" and a herd of Angus that know him as the guy with the hay.

JUSTICE EVELYN LUNDBERG STRATTON was born to missionary parents in Bangkok, Thailand, and spent her childhood in Southeast Asia, where she attended boarding school in South Vietnam during the height of the Vietnam War, and later in Malaysia. While she traveled to America periodically with her parents in her younger years, she returned to the United States alone at age 18, with only a few hundred dollars. She worked her way through school, receiving a juris doctor from The Ohio State University College of Law.

Justice Stratton's legal career began in the courtrooms of central Ohio as a trial lawyer. In 1989, as the first woman judge elected to the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas, she presided over cases ranging from capital murder trials to major civil actions. In her years on the bench, she established a solid record of judicial integrity, fairness and diligence. Her approach to sentencing in serious felony cases earned her the nickname "The Velvet Hammer."

Justice Stratton is committed to her community and her efforts led to major changes in adoption law. Justice Stratton led a nationwide effort to expedite adoption appeals and provided strong leadership as a former member of the board of trustees for the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, and Prevent Blindness Ohio.

With a partnership between courts and the mental health system, Justice Stratton believes many defendants whose mental illness is the basis of their criminal activity can be helped and their lives improved. She formed the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Mental Illness & the Courts, a task force of mental health, legal and criminal justice professionals from around the state that focuses on mental health initiatives in the court system.

Justice Stratton also leads national efforts to help those with mental illness. She is a cofounder of the National Judges' Leadership Initiative, which supports mental health efforts, and she serves as co-chair of the Returning Home Advisory Commission, which assists in re-entry by those from jails and prisons in order to reduce recidivism and its cost to society.

Among Justice Stratton's many honors is the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Adoption Excellence Award. She also was honored as an Angel in Adoption by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute.

In May 2008, Justice Stratton received an Ellis Island Medal of Honor, which pays tribute to Americans of diverse origins for their outstanding contributions to their communities, the country and world. Ranked among the nation's most prestigious awards, its recipients are listed in the Congressional Record.



**EVELYN LUNDBERG
STRATTON**

Justice

2008 STAFF

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Connie A. Crim
Kristina L. Hawk



MAUREEN O'CONNOR
Justice

2008 STAFF

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Pierce J. Reed
Anthony D. Schroeder
Jill S. Winn

Born in the nation's capital, but raised in Strongsville and Parma, **JUSTICE MAUREEN O'CONNOR's** 2008 re-election to the Supreme Court of Ohio is the latest achievement in a long career of public service.

While gaining experience in practice as an attorney during the early 1980s, Justice O'Connor created a home for her family and her legal career in Northeast Ohio. Appointed a magistrate in Summit County in 1985, she served in that capacity until becoming a common pleas court judge in 1993. As a busy trial judge, Justice O'Connor was selected by her peers to serve as the administrative judge — a testament to her ability to build coalitions and maintain collegiality while administering to the business of the courts.

But Justice O'Connor felt compelled to return to work on the front lines of protecting the public. She became the Summit County prosecuting attorney in 1995, aggressively prosecuting repeat offenders, violent criminals and public officials who committed ethical violations or improprieties. She was recognized for her work on behalf of crime victims, and remains proud of awards bestowed on her by Mothers Against Drunk Driving and Cleveland State University. As prosecutor, Justice O'Connor also lobbied the General Assembly for tougher rape laws and mandatory jail time for gang-related offenses. Successful in her undertakings, she set her sights on more difficult challenges.

In 1998, Ohioans elected Justice O'Connor as their lieutenant governor — the second-highest official in the state. She quickly became the governor's chief advisor on criminal-justice issues, serving as director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, and as chair of Ohio's Security Task Force and the State Building Security Review Committee. Justice O'Connor's experiences in law enforcement proved invaluable, particularly in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks, when she led the state in its response to new threats of terrorism. Her leadership in this area garnered the attention and praise of the country's first homeland security director, Tom Ridge.

In the 2008 general election, Justice O'Connor won re-election to the Supreme Court with more than 67 percent of the popular vote. Her 2002 election, in which she took more than 57 percent of the vote, made her the 148th Justice to the Court, the sixth woman to join the Court and gave the Court its first-ever female majority.

As a Supreme Court Justice, she also devotes herself to educational initiatives for Ohio students and to matters of security, such as the Court's new Advisory Committee on Court Security & Emergency Preparedness, which she chairs.



JUSTICE TERRENCE O'DONNELL has been a member of the state judiciary for more than 25 years, having served on the trial court and appellate court before being elected to the Supreme Court of Ohio.

He began his legal career as a law clerk to Supreme Court Justice J.J.P. Corrigan in 1971 and then clerked for Judge John V. Corrigan and Judge John M. Manos on the 8th District Court of Appeals in Cuyahoga County, where he later returned as an appellate judge. Justice O'Donnell also served as a judge on the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas for 14 years.

Justice O'Donnell brings a wide array of related service to the Supreme Court, having served as chairman of the Cleveland Bar Association Law Related Education Committee and the Student Essay Contest. A former schoolteacher, Justice O'Donnell is a founding member and past president of the Legal Eagles — a law fraternity for alumni of St. Edward High School in Lakewood — and a lecturer at its year-end seminar.

Justice O'Donnell's prior service also includes serving on the Supreme Court Statistical Reporting Committee and the Commission on Professionalism. He continues to lecture on professionalism and ethics at continuing legal education programs throughout Ohio. His efforts to implement a statewide lawyer mentoring program have come to fruition and are widely acclaimed.

Justice O'Donnell also has served as chairman of the Ohio Legal Rights Service Commission, which oversees the protection and advocacy of the mentally retarded and mentally ill statewide. He is a past member of the board of trustees of Our Lady of the Wayside, a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving the needs of the mentally and physically challenged. His brother, John, is a group-home resident at Fairview House, which is owned and serviced by Our Lady of the Wayside.

The Justice is a past board member of Magnificat High School and the Lawyers Guild of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, as well as a member of the Ohio State Bar Foundation Fellows Class of 2005.

Justice O'Donnell has been honored by every school and university he attended. St. Edward High School presented him with its Alumnus of the Year Award in 2005, Kent State University recognized him as an outstanding graduate of the College of Arts & Sciences, and Cleveland State University awarded him its Distinguished Alumni Award. In addition, the University of Akron School of Law conferred an honorary doctor of law degree on him when he presented the commencement address in 2005.



**TERRENCE
O'DONNELL**

Justice

2008 STAFF

Francis L. Barnes III
Laura W. Dawson
James Quinn Dorgan
Kent C. Kiffner
Ann M. Schlatter



**JUDITH ANN
LANZINGER**

Justice

2008 STAFF

Sarah Lopresti
Kristin B. Mutchler
Lora D. Peters
Samuel C. Peterson
Sandra K. Ringer
Ronald L. Wadlinger II

JUSTICE JUDITH ANN LANZINGER became the only person elected to all four levels of the Ohio judiciary when she was elected the 150th Supreme Court Justice in 2004. Over her 24-year career, she has served on the Supreme Court, the 6th District Court of Appeals, the Lucas County Court of Common Pleas and the Toledo Municipal Court.

The first in her family to attend college, Justice Lanzinger became the second woman to earn a master's degree in judicial studies from the National Judicial College and University of Nevada, Reno. She received her undergraduate degree magna cum laude in education and English from the University of Toledo.

Justice Lanzinger then taught elementary school and started a family before earning her law degree cum laude at the University of Toledo College of Law, where she was valedictorian of her class. Before joining the bench, she practiced with a corporation and then a Toledo law firm for several years. The Justice has been an adjunct professor since 1988 at her former law school and taught judicial courses in seven states, as well as in the former Soviet Union. The National Judicial College recently recognized her for 12 years of faculty participation.

Justice Lanzinger currently chairs the Supreme Court Commission on the Rules of Superintendence for Ohio Courts. Previously, she served as chairperson and a board member of the Ohio Judicial College. She is a charter member and past president of the Morrison R. Waite American Inn of Court, a group that mentors law students and new attorneys. She also served as co-chair of the Public Education and Awareness Task Force of the Ohio Courts Futures Commission, and was a member of the Supreme Court of Ohio Board of Commissioners on Grievances & Discipline, as well as the Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission.

Justice Lanzinger's awards include the Toledo Junior Bar's Order of the Heel and the Arabella Babb Mansfield Award from the Toledo Women's Bar Association, both given for assistance to young lawyers.



Prior to his election to the Supreme Court in November 2006, **JUSTICE ROBERT R. CUPP** served on the Ohio Court of Appeals, 3rd Appellate District.

Much of Justice Cupp's 30-year legal career has been committed to effective public service.

Before becoming a judge, Justice Cupp served 16 years as a member of the Ohio Senate, beginning in 1985 and ending in 2000. He won each election by wide vote margins. Before his election to the General Assembly, Justice Cupp served as a Lima city prosecutor and assistant director of law from 1976 to 1980, and was twice elected Allen County commissioner, serving from 1981 to 1984 and 2001 to 2002.

Additionally, Justice Cupp engaged in the private practice of law in Lima for more than 25 years and is a member of the Allen County and Ohio State Bar Associations. He co-authored the book, *[Legal] Ethics and Discipline in Ohio*, published by the Ohio State Bar Foundation in 1977.

In the Senate, Justice Cupp served as president pro tempore, the second-highest Senate leader, from 1997 through 2000. As chairman of the Civil Justice Subcommittee, and a 10-year member of the Judiciary Committee, he focused on civil and criminal justice issues. Further, as a member of the Education Committee, he worked extensively on education and school finance improvement issues. As chairman of the Commerce and Labor Committee, he also worked to improve the state's workers' compensation system.

Justice Cupp twice received the Ohio State Bar Association's Distinguished Service Award. He also received the Ohio Association of Elected Officials' Robert E. Hughes Memorial Award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the improvement of elections in Ohio. Further, he is the recipient of the State 4-H Alumni Award.

In addition to his current judicial service, Justice Cupp serves as a member of the Ohio Commission on Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management by appointment of the Chief Justice. He also was a visiting professor at Ohio Northern University, his alma mater, teaching judicial process and leadership. He is a past president of the 13-county Black Swamp Area Boy Scout Council; a member of the Lima Rotary Club (Paul Harris Fellow) and the board of trustees of the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association and NCA president from July 2008 to June 2009.

Justice Cupp was born in rural Allen County and grew up on his family's farm. He earned his political science degree with high distinction from Ohio Northern University in 1973 and his law degree from Ohio Northern's Pettit College of Law in 1976.



ROBERT R. CUPP
Justice

2008 STAFF
Melissa W. Baldwin
Diane R. Brey
Susan M. Burns
Robert Vaughn



YEAR IN REVIEW 2008

JAN. 4

Racial fairness training is offered for the first time during New Judge Orientation.



Williams County Courthouse

JAN. 15

Photograph collection of all 88 county courthouses in Ohio installed in Ohio Judicial Center.

JAN. 16

Supreme Court welcomes 20 externs, the largest class since the program began in 1995. Externs are unpaid, temporary members of Court staff who receive school credit through the law school each attends.

JAN. 24

Supreme Court hosts seminar on high-threat trial security.

JAN. 28

Arthur J. Marziale Jr. joins Supreme Court as director of Legal Resources.

FEB. 7

Supreme Court announces availability of model foreclosure mediation program for local courts.

Supreme Court recognizes six employees with Professional Excellence Awards.



MAY 1

Gov. Strickland (*left*) and Chief Justice Moyer (*far left*) convene Ohio Summit on Children.

FEB. 28

Justice Stratton hosts a meeting of a statewide organization devoted to ending chronic homelessness and promoting affordable housing.

APRIL 1

Supreme Court joins other state agencies in announcing *Save the Dream* foreclosure assistance program.

Justice Stratton delivers address at national mental health, criminal justice conference.

APRIL 11

Supreme Court makes Lexis and Westlaw training available to law library patrons free-of-charge for first time.

APRIL 14

Former Supreme Court Justice Blanche Krupansky dies.

APRIL 16

Pew Charitable Trust report cites Ohio foreclosure response program as one of three best in nation.

APRIL 17

Supreme Court co-hosts national conference on pattern jury instructions.

MAY 5

Justice O'Connor serves as a judge at the 21st annual *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution* national finals sponsored by the Center for Civic Education in Washington.

MAY 7

Supreme Court holds session at Union County Courthouse as part of the Off-Site Court Program.

MAY 8

Justice Stratton hosts a national meeting devoted to ending homelessness.

MAY 12

Justice Stratton receives Ellis Island Medal of Honor in New York City ceremony.

Nearly 230 new attorneys admitted to bar.

MAY 14

Court management professionals from around Ohio gather at Ohio Judicial Center for spring conference.

Justice O'Connor hosts Leadership Medina County for Ohio Judicial Center tour and discussion.

MAY 15

Chief Justice Moyer reflects on the "beauty of the law" during remarks at 128th annual Ohio State Bar Association Convention.

MAY 17

More than 20 Court staff members (*right*) participate in the 2008 Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in downtown Columbus.

MAY 23

Supreme Court releases reference guide for judges to use in cases needing services of court interpreters.

MAY 30

Chief Justice Moyer receives law-client protection award from national organization.

JUNE 4

Supreme Court Justices welcome guests to reception recognizing public artwork on display at Ohio Judicial Center.

JUNE 6

Supreme Court releases 2007 Ohio Courts Summary, which notes rising number of new foreclosure case filings in Ohio courts.

JUNE 17

Supreme Court releases a reference guide for judges starting mental health court dockets.

JULY 14

A joint legislative-judicial committee releases 11 recommendations designed to streamline the process for determining, collecting and monitoring court costs and filing fees. The committee was co-chaired by Steven C. Hollon, administrative director of the Supreme Court.

Chief Justice Moyer participates in public hearing in California on impartial courts.



JULY 17

Supreme Court releases summary of mayor's courts activity for 2007, which notes an increase in cases pending at year-end beyond the recommended time frame, as well as an overall decrease in cases tried by mayors.

JULY 24

Justice Cupp addresses nearly 150 4-H teen leaders at the annual State 4-H Leadership Camp in St. Louisville, Ohio (*below*).



JULY 28

Justice Stratton recognizes milestone of 3,000 crisis intervention officers trained in Ohio.

AUG. 7

Ninth-graders in the inaugural Law & Leadership Summer Institute participate in a mock trial (*below*) at the Ohio Judicial Center.



AUG. 13

Supreme Court begins implementation of Ohio Courts Network.

AUG. 18

Supreme Court adopts changes to New Lawyer Training, allowing new lawyers more options to fulfill requirements.

AUG. 22

Court personnel, judges and magistrates from across Ohio learn about Chinese culture during the Judicial College course, *New Americans Series: China*, marking the fifth year the Judicial College and Interpreter Services Program collaborate on courses involving interpreter-related issues.

AUG. 29

Supreme Court unveils training video for court interpreters (*below*).



SEPT. 17

Ohio Judicial Center chosen for cover of new Columbus architectural guide.

SEPT. 24

Ohio judges participate in Advanced Science and Technology Resource Center program at The Ohio State University.



OCT. 2

Scholarships provided by the Supreme Court allow juvenile court judges, magistrates and court staff from each Ohio county to attend the Ohio CASA/GAL Association 14th annual *Celebrate Kids! Conference* focusing on related law and the work of guardians ad litem.

OCT. 13

Justice Lanzinger and Justice Cupp discuss elections past and present with students at Upper Sandusky Middle School.

OCT. 15

Supreme Court holds Off-Site Court at Shelby County Courthouse.

OCT. 16

Justice O'Connor and Justice O'Donnell serve as panelists during a CLE seminar in Cleveland about the U.S. and Ohio Supreme Courts.

OCT. 20

Supreme Court is recognized as one of Capital University's Adoption Law Center champions.

OCT. 21

Supreme Court receives \$250,000 federal grant to educate judges on science issues.

OCT. 22

The National Judicial College honors Justice Lanzinger for more than a decade of teaching and contributions toward "advancing justice through judicial education."

OCT. 31

More than 1,000 applicants pass July 2008 Ohio bar exam.

International visitors from 20 countries learn about U.S. election law from Chief Justice Moyer.

NOV. 5

Supreme Court staff spearhead project to make 1912 Constitutional Convention documents available electronically.

NOV. 6

Victims of attorney theft receive nearly \$750,000 in fiscal year 2008, according to Clients' Security Fund of Ohio annual report.

NOV. 12

Five-county alternative response pilot project, developed by Supreme Court and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, is touted at national conference.

Chief Justice Moyer joins Gov. Strickland, the Ohio State Bar Association and local bar associations in officially recognizing Nov. 12 as "Legal Aid Day" in Ohio.

NOV. 14

Ukrainian judicial delegation studies American judicial system during week-long visit.

NOV. 17

Permanent *Lawyer to Lawyer* mentoring program kicks off.



Nearly 1,000 new attorneys admitted to the bar in second semi-annual ceremony at the Ohio Theatre (*left*) in Columbus.

Nov. 20

Supreme Court announces new program for attorneys to voluntarily report their pro bono activities.

Nov. 24

More than 300 professionals involved in specialized dockets in courts across Ohio meet for training sessions and to learn innovative and effective strategies from each other.

Nov. 26

Supreme Court establishes commission to assist and advise the Court regarding the public use and preservation of the artistic, architectural and historic integrity of the Ohio Judicial Center.

DEC. 2

Chief Justice Moyer testifies in support of mayor's courts reform bill in Ohio Senate.

DEC. 3

Chief Justice Moyer pledges reductions in Supreme Court spending.

DEC. 4

Supreme Court highlights decision by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to ensure legal aid for the poor continues in Ohio during difficult economic times.

DEC. 5

Under a new streamlined policy, the Commission on Continuing Legal Education issues sanctions for attorneys who failed to comply with CLE requirements.



DEC. 11

Journalists and jurists (*above*) learn about the new media environment at annual Judges & Journalists Workshop.

At a CLE seminar in Cleveland, Justice O'Connor explains the reasoning behind establishing a pilot program in common pleas court dockets dedicated to business cases.

DEC. 17

Steven Hollon joins other state-court leaders to discuss important state-court issues with a member of President-Elect Barack Obama's transition team.

DEC. 18

Supreme Court approves a 15 percent increase in contribution limits for judicial campaigns effective in 2009.

DEC. 22

Supreme Court adopts rule amendments addressing access to court records. The rules maintain the legal presumption that court records are open and accessible.

DEC. 30

Supreme Court adopts new Code of Judicial Conduct.





Ohio Summit on Children

Working together for our future

MORE THAN 500 PARTICIPANTS from 79 Ohio counties joined state judicial, executive and legislative officials in Columbus on May 1 and 2, 2008, for the first Ohio Summit on Children. Hosted by Chief Justice Moyer and Governor Strickland, the goals of the two-day event were to enhance the safety, well-being and permanent home environments of Ohio children.

The Summit brought together five-member county teams to assess local and state strengths and challenges and identify gaps in delivering services to Ohio's children. Local juvenile court judges and directors of county children services or jobs and family services agencies served as team leaders.

One aim of the Summit was to inspire and encourage collaboration among the various teams of service providers and court personnel, as well as throughout the various levels of government. Well into the two days of speakers, exercises, assessments, videos and testimonials, Ohio State football coach Jim Tressel addressed the participants and state officials to share his view of the importance of team-building and how such efforts breed success in organizations of all kinds.

Inspiration and emotion were plentiful on day one of the event as Cedric Riley recounted his experience with the state's foster-care system with enlightening and forthright comments. Riley is a former foster child in Ohio who is a successful student and leader at The Ohio State University. The first of three videos developed for the Summit, *Voices of Ohio Children*, illustrated the experiences of other foster children.

"When we work together to ensure our state's children are well cared for in safe home environments, we are ensuring a better future for our communities and our state," said Steven C. Hollon, administrative director of the Supreme Court of Ohio. "The Summit will empower leaders from Ohio's counties to create and implement plans to improve the services they provide to children that will make a long-lasting impact on the lives of the children they serve."

Modeled after the National Summit on Children, the idea for an Ohio Summit on Children came about after the success of the Supreme Court's *Beyond the Numbers* project, which primarily focused on improving court processes for the benefit of children and families.

"As we've seen with other successful collaborations around the state, gathering people who can impact the delivery of services to children can have a dramatic effect," said Chief Justice Moyer. "For instance, the Marion County Family Court reduced the time a child spends in a foster home waiting for adoption by more than three years. It only made sense to share these success stories with other parts of the state and expand beyond the court system."



Cedric Riley shares his story with Summit attendees.



Later on the first day, participants heard from national, state and local officials. Joan Ohl, commissioner of the Administration for Children, Youth and Families for the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, opened the luncheon remarks. Helen Jones-Kelley, former director of the Ohio Department of Jobs & Family Services, followed with the state perspective, and Judge David Basinski of the Lorain County Domestic Relations/Juvenile Court closed with a local point of view.

Former Judge William Byars Jr., director of the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice, addressed the dinner crowd, cautioning that the days or weeks a judge or a children services worker spends on each case translate into a perceived “eternity” in the eyes and mind of a child. To end such emotional suffering of Ohio’s young children, he related, officials must find a way to collaborate and streamline government “red tape” to expedite children’s cases.

Participants at the Summit not only spent time listening to government officials and children’s-issues experts, they also collaborated on local plans and helped identify state-level barriers that could be removed. To help with planning, the second Summit video, *Voices of Ohio Communities*, offered further insight into local perspectives about the various needs or barriers of local service providers. The third video, *Promising and Proven Approaches*, highlighted successful initiatives already established in Ohio communities.

Specialized Dockets Manager Melissa A. Knopp (below, center), along with several other Supreme Court staff members, acted as county team facilitators during the two-day Summit.



To wrap up the Summit, teams were charged with furthering their collaborative efforts and developing a county plan to address emerging or significant issues in their communities that affect the well-being of children and families. Governor Strickland, Chief Justice Moyer and legislative leaders were on hand at the conclusion to hear initial perceptions of what their next steps should be.

Further, participants were charged with developing a final county plan and submitting it to the Supreme Court within several months. Summit participants were asked to commit to a more long-term effort to bring successful change to their communities by agreeing to attend the second Ohio Summit on Children, scheduled for November 2009. Participants at that event will be asked to present their county plans with others and share information on programs or initiatives finding success in their communities.



Supreme Court Takes Lead Against Foreclosures



Judge Mary Katherine Huffman of the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas (above) responds to a question during an April 1 Save the Dream launch event in Dayton.

Early in 2008, as the public learned more about the alarming numbers of foreclosures occurring in the state and foreclosures emerged as a major issue in Ohio, Chief Justice Moyer looked for ways the Supreme Court could make meaningful contributions to assist Ohioans.

In early February 2008, the Chief Justice sent a letter to all registered attorneys in Ohio, encouraging them to make their professional services available pro bono. The attorney general and the president of the Ohio State Bar Association also signed the letter. More than 1,200 attorneys responded to the request for volunteers to work with eligible homeowners.

Chief Justice Moyer said he believed attorneys could make a difference. “Many homeowners threatened with foreclosure cannot afford an attorney,” he wrote, “and the resources available in the legal services community alone are inadequate to address the current need.”

Courts across Ohio reported 85,773 new foreclosure filings in 2008, marking the 13th consecutive annual increase. One bright spot, however, shows that 2008 represented the smallest percentage increase (3.1 percent) in the number of foreclosure filings over that same 13-year time period.

“While the reasons are varied and the facts continue to unfold,” Moyer wrote, “the impact affects nearly every Ohioan in the reduction of property values in our communities, as well as vacant and abandoned properties in our neighborhoods, loss of the local tax base to support important services, and busier court dockets.”

The Supreme Court in February created a first-of-its-kind model mediation program for courts to use in foreclosure cases. The staff of the Supreme Court Dispute Resolution Section and Advisory Committee on Dispute Resolution created a Foreclosure Working Group of judges, magistrates, mediators, attorneys, legal aid representatives, educators, mortgage bankers and homeowner representatives.

An 11-step foreclosure mediation process, the model, which includes best practices, related documents, forms and other resources, was designed so courts can modify it as needed. The model is designed to help courts determine which cases are appropriate for mediation through the assessment of information provided by homeowners and lenders.

The Chief Justice called on all Ohio judges with jurisdiction over foreclosure cases to use the model in their courtrooms by modifying the model to meet the needs and resources of their communities. The Supreme Court also offered free assistance to local courts to implement the model and provide public education and training specific to foreclosure cases.

“We are providing the tools to facilitate the use of mediation at the local level in resolving foreclosure cases,” Moyer said, “giving these cases the same access to mediation that has been regularly available in other types of civil cases for more than a decade.”

In March 2008, the Supreme Court joined efforts with the statewide anti-foreclosure program, *Save the Dream*, as the Ohio Department of Commerce launched a public awareness campaign of radio and television advertisements, a Web site and a telephone hot line to provide callers with information and access to an approved housing counselor. Ohio’s extraordinary multi-agency foreclosure assistance program consolidated numerous state resources and programs related to foreclosure into one program for citizens to access for assistance.

Other *Save the Dream* partners include: Lt. Gov. Lee Fisher and the Ohio Department of Development, Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray’s office, Ohio Treasurer of State Kevin Boyce’s office, the Ohio Housing Finance Agency, the Ohio State Bar Association, the Ohio State Legal Services Association, local housing counseling agencies and local legal aid organizations.

Ohio’s efforts to address its foreclosure crisis were noted by scholars and experts across the country, as well as by other states. An April 16 report by The Pew Charitable Trusts ranked Ohio’s foreclosure response as one of the three best in the country.

In addition, *U.S. News & World Report*, in an April 21 story, labeled Ohio’s foreclosure prevention program as one of the country’s “most ambitious.”

The Court also received numerous inquiries from other states interested in following the Ohio model. By the end of 2008, the Court’s Dispute Resolution staff provided assistance in foreclosure mediation to 15 other states.



During the Save the Dream launch event, William Wheeler, executive director of the Dayton Bar Association (middle), listens as attendees discuss the initiative.

Event Recognizes Ohio Judicial Center Artists & Benefactors

Unlike any building in the state, the Ohio Judicial Center is home to a vast collection of large murals, mosaics, bronze plaques and granite sculptures. Original to the building when it opened in 1933, the artwork is as much a part of the building as the word of law is to the Supreme Court itself.

Because art is such a fundamental part of the building, the Court also welcomes the works of modern artists. Today, the works of 17 artists grace the walls and plazas of the Ohio Judicial Center, and plans for additional pieces of donated public art are pending.

In June 2008, the Supreme Court welcomed artists, benefactors and their guests to the Ohio Judicial Center for an event called “Ohio: The Law, the Land and the People,” which was the official launch of an effort to raise awareness of the art and to thank the collection’s benefactors.

The Ohio Judicial Center collection includes a wide range of techniques and media, from the work of internationally renowned Columbus artist Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson, whose rag painting *Church Quilters on Water Street* depicts a scene beside the Scioto River, to Professor Nicholas Hill’s vivid prints. Much of this art was made possible by the generous support of the Ohio State Bar Association, the Ohio State Bar Foundation and other patrons.

The collection includes more than 160 pieces of contemporary art, as well as historic maps dating to the mid-17th century. Many pieces depict Ohio subjects, including Hocking Hills landscapes, portraits of past Supreme Court Justices and photographs of Ohio’s 88 county courthouses.



Contemporary artist Ron Anderson (far right) greets guests in the Supreme Court Law Library.



Representing the artists whose work is exhibited in the building, award-winning Ohioan Ron Anderson (*left*), an oil painter, commercial art instructor and art consultant, spoke at the event. His six 4-foot by 8-foot original paintings, commissioned by the Ohio State Bar Association, depict the evolution of the rule of law in Western civilization. On loan to the Supreme Court, Anderson's work hangs in the Law Library on the 11th Floor.

"Speaking on behalf of the many talented artists who have created work for the Ohio Judicial Center, we are thankful for the opportunity that was given to us to help celebrate this historical building, and add to its beauty and aesthetics," Anderson said. "It is our hope that our artwork, which depicts the rich heritage of the state of Ohio, will bring joy and inspiration to all who visit the Ohio Judicial Center."

Chief Justice Moyer spoke of the importance of public art. "Since moving into the Ohio Judicial Center four years ago, the Court has acquired a large collection of new public art that reflects the work of the judiciary and builds on the impressive existing collection of original art throughout the refurbished building," Chief Justice Moyer said. "This collection further joins two disciplines that on their face may appear quite different, but at their roots are aimed at the

privately funded, 30-foot, sculpture placed before the event in the courtyard. In 2006, carved granite reflecting pool spelling forth the American justice system: justice, honor, reason, equity,



Guests admire murals in the Law Library Reading Room.



Chief Justice Moyer (above, left) accepts Gavel from artist Andrew Scott (above, right) on behalf of the Court.

Supreme Court Protects Public Access to Court Records

More than 100 years ago, drawing on a large body of law, a Cincinnati judge first crystallized a fundamental principle that is still a cornerstone of Ohio government. Today, Ohio judges are working to take this important concept into the 21st century.

“Public records are the people’s records. The officials in whose custody they happen to be are mere trustees for the people”

So wrote Judge Rufus B. Smith of the Superior Court of Cincinnati (a body that no longer exists) in 1901. The Supreme Court of Ohio quoted Judge Smith verbatim when it first adopted this universal principle of openness as statewide law in 1960. The idea was codified in statute with the passage of the Public Records Act in 1963. It was reaffirmed in 1976 in the foundational public records case of *Dayton Newspapers v. City of Dayton*, decided by the Supreme Court of Ohio, and it remains the bedrock of Ohio public records law to this day.

The Supreme Court of Ohio in 2008 completed an administrative process to craft judicial rules that will maintain this principle and keep court records open.

The rules were crafted by the Supreme Court Commission on the Rules of Superintendence for Ohio Courts, chaired by Justice Judith Ann Lanzinger, and they were put out for two periods of extensive public comment that resulted in revisions and improvements.

Among other provisions, the rules establish that court records are presumed open and state that a court may restrict access to a particular document only “if it finds by clear and convincing evidence that the presumption of allowing public access is outweighed by a higher interest.” The rule offers specific factors for judges to consider when weighing the “higher interest,” including, but not limited to, “risk of injury to persons, individual privacy rights and interests, proprietary business information, public safety, and fairness of the adjudicatory process.”



Two very important realities prompted the Court to pursue the new rules. First, ubiquitous access afforded by the Internet has changed the very nature of records, as well as how they are accessed. The identity of juvenile sexual assault victims and the accounts of their victimization, the painful and highly personal details of the lives of couples seeking divorce, and the

Public records are the people's records. The officials in whose custody they happen to be are mere trustees for the people.

— Hon. Rufus B. Smith
1901

accounting of assets in a deceased person's estate and the value of an inheritance passed to heirs are all issues routinely brought to courts in Ohio every day. When should these records be public? The answer is, "almost always." But the question looms large when "public" no longer means available for review in a courthouse, but now means accessible through Google, displayed on MySpace, or played on YouTube. It is this

question that the rules help to answer.

The second reality that necessitates these rules is a matter of constitutional law. While the courts in Ohio always have acted in accordance with the Public Records Act, the act does not govern the courts. The important constitutional principle of separation of powers requires that the Supreme Court of Ohio regulate court records through its Rules of Superintendence for Ohio Courts.

For more than 200 years, Ohio courts have balanced the fundamental principle of openness articulated so gracefully by Judge Smith, with the equally important privacy rights of individuals and other societal interests. The new rules are an attempt to continue to strike this critical balance in the new information age.

The rules become effective on May 1, 2009, and the Court will conduct training for court personnel around the state. The rules are available at supremecourt.ohio.gov.

Supreme Court Administrative Operations

ADMINISTRATIVE
DIVISION

CLERK'S DIVISION

LEGAL RESOURCES
DIVISION

ATTORNEY SERVICES
DIVISION

JUDICIAL & COURT
SERVICES DIVISION

FISCAL &
MANAGEMENT
RESOURCES DIVISION

INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY
DIVISION

FACILITIES
MANAGEMENT
DIVISION

AFFILIATED OFFICES



A Message from the Administrative Director

Dear Fellow Ohioans:

Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. once said, “The great thing in this world is not so much where we are, but in what direction we are moving.” 2008 was a year of defining our direction and setting the course for the Supreme Court of Ohio.

Under Chief Justice Moyer’s leadership and with the learned counsel of the other associate Justices, the several judicial associations and the judges throughout the state, we accomplished much this past year in terms of defining our priorities and articulating our mission and vision for the future of the Ohio judicial branch.

Most significantly, in 2008 we completed a comprehensive, collaborative strategic planning process to clearly define our goals and articulate a set of specific strategies and tactics for achieving them.

In addition, we achieved several organizational and administrative accomplishments that advance the cause of administering justice with integrity and providing leadership to the third branch of Ohio government, including:

- The adoption of the first comprehensive revision of the Code of Judicial Conduct since 1999.
- The adoption of new Rules of Superintendence for Ohio Courts governing court records that strike a balance between openness and privacy.
- Budget cuts and reduced spending for fiscal year 2008 totaling more than \$3 million.
- The establishment of the Law & Leadership Summer Institute, a program to interest high school freshmen from underserved communities in careers in the law.
- The development of new tools and resources for language interpretation in Ohio courtrooms.

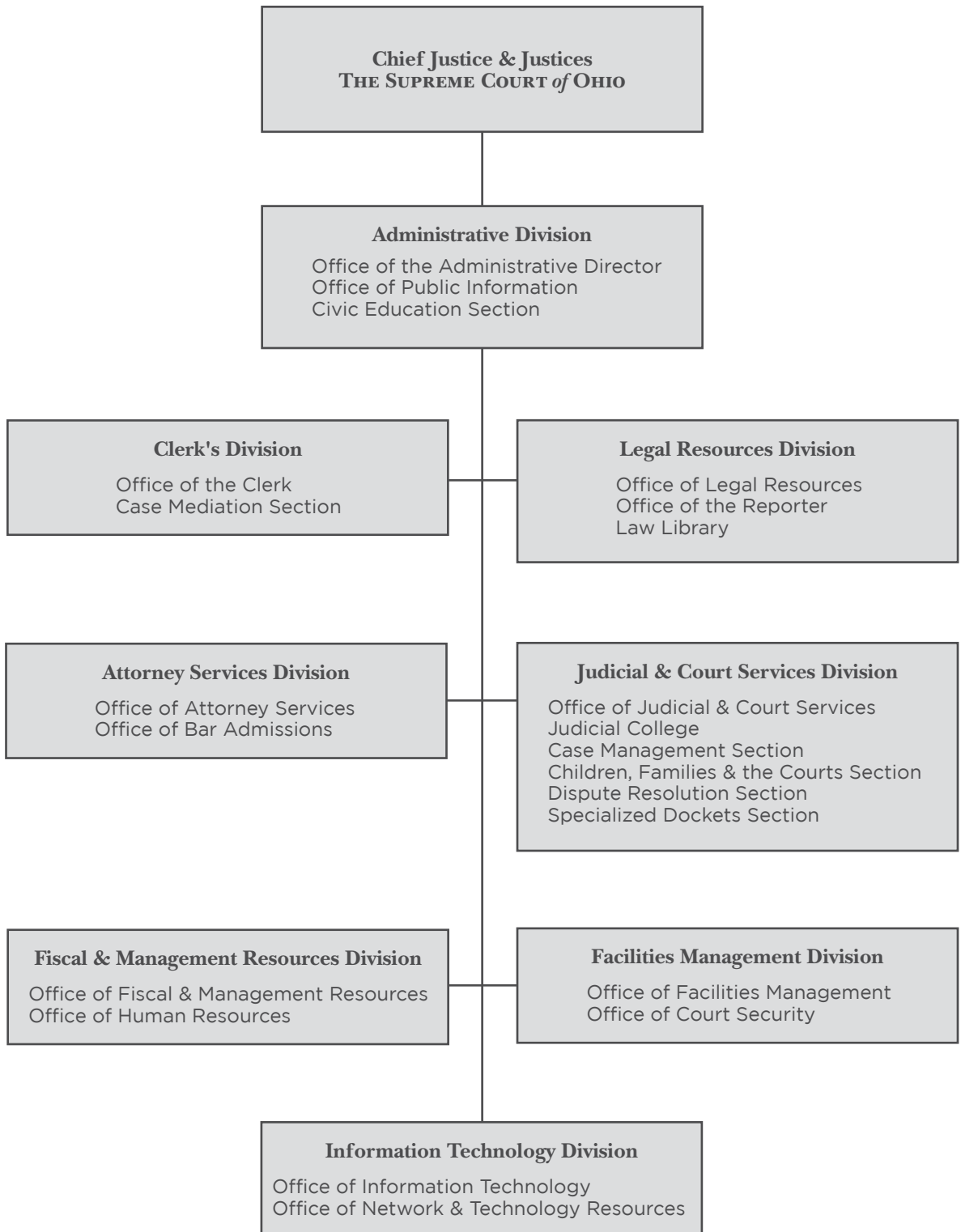
Throughout this report, there are countless more examples of the successes we achieved this past year as we plot a course toward a bright future for the third branch in Ohio. As the Chief Justice writes in his letter introducing this report, it is only through collaborative effort and common purpose that we can succeed.



STEVEN C. HOLLON



THE SUPREME COURT OF OHIO 2008 ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE



SUPREME COURT ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS

Supreme Court employees work in offices, sections, programs and work groups comprising eight divisions: Administrative, Clerk's, Legal Resources, Attorney Services, Judicial & Court Services, Fiscal & Management Resources, Information Technology and Facilities Management. The Court also has four affiliated offices with a quasi-independent status because of the nature of their work. They are the Office of Disciplinary Counsel, the Board of Commissioners on Grievances & Discipline, the Clients' Security Fund and the Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission.

In addition, the Court relies upon the volunteer services of dozens of committed judges, attorneys, clerks, court administrators and private citizens who serve on the Supreme Court's many boards, commissions, advisory committees and task forces. These bodies help the Court provide oversight to the courts of Ohio, regulate the practice of law, and provide efficient and helpful services to the judicial branch of Ohio government. For a complete listing of these bodies and the nature of their work, refer to the Supreme Court Web site at supremecourt.ohio.gov.

The table of organization on page 26 (*left*) provides a visual representation of the Court structure in 2008.

Steven C. Hollon, Esq.

Steven C. Hollon joined the Supreme Court as administrative director in March 1999. The administrative director is a constitutional position serving at the pleasure of the Court. As the Court's senior non-elected officer, Hollon, in conjunction with the Chief Justice and Justices, and the Ohio Judicial Conference and Ohio judges, develops and communicates the long-term vision, values and direction of the Court and the judicial branch. In addition, he provides oversight to all eight divisions and more than 250 employees of the Supreme Court, and administers a budget of more than \$145 million for the Supreme Court and Ohio judiciary.

Hollon began his legal career as a judicial law clerk with the Ohio 12th District Court of Appeals, where he later became court administrator. He engaged in private practice in Hamilton, Ohio, before becoming the administrator and senior staff attorney of the 2nd District Court of Appeals in Dayton. He was appointed to the Butler County Court of Common Pleas, but declined the appointment to assume his current duties.

Hollon's background also includes service on the Supreme Court Board of Commissioners on Grievances & Discipline. He has lectured at numerous judge association meetings, including a week-long seminar on judicial administration and legal ethics to the Ukrainian Supreme Court in Kiev.

Hollon is on the board of directors of the National Center for State Courts in Williamsburg, Va.; is the president-elect of the Conference of State Court Administrators; is a fellow in the Ohio State Bar Foundation; and is the 2009 chairman of Ohio United Way.



Hollon at the Ohio Summit on Children.

Administrative Division

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

Steven C. Hollon
Administrative Director

Richard A. Dove
*Assistant Administrative
Director*

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

Chris Davey
Director

CIVIC EDUCATION SECTION

Jay Wuebbold
Manager



The Administrative Division is the lead division of the Supreme Court. In 2008, it consisted of the Office of the Administrative Director, the Office of Public Information and the Civic Education Section. The Administrative Division assists in developing and communicating the long-term vision, values and direction of the Court and the judicial branch of Ohio government. The Office of the Administrative Director provides oversight to the other offices within the division and to the other divisions of the Court.

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

The Office of the Administrative Director assists in the response to emerging issues, including providing staff support for special projects, initiatives and task forces. The office also develops and maintains relationships with the General Assembly and monitors legislative activity on matters of interest to the Court and the judicial branch. Additionally, the office provides staff assistance to the Commission on the Rules of Superintendence for Ohio Courts and the Commission on Rules of Practice and Procedure.



In 2008, the administrative director and the Justices conducted the fourth annual Professional Excellence Awards ceremony in the Courtroom, recognizing employees for years of service and outstanding professional performance. The 2007 Professional Excellence Award recipients were, from left to right, Sandra H. Grosko, Office of the Clerk; Elizabeth Minor, Office of Human Resources; Roselyn R. Smith, Office of Bar Admissions; Phillip A. Farmer and James R. Shroyer, Office of Public Information; and Robin H. Smith, Office of Facilities Management.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION 2008 STAFF

D. Allan Asbury
Jo Ellen Cline
Bret A. Crow
Michael R. Dalsanto
Chris Davey
Jennifer A. Dennis
Richard A. Dove
Carol Durley
Phillip A. Farmer
Steven C. Hollon
Kevin W. Humphries
Cindy L. Johnson
Lanessa M. Keesor
Regina M. Koehler
Erika L. Lemke
Corey B. Lucius
Julie C. Manning
Crista T. Marbley
Kevin M. McDougald
Michael McWeeney
Ruth A. Newcomer
Arleathia Radcliffe
Justine S. Reichert
Kathleen M. Riedel
Travis R. Shaul
James R. Shroyer
Andrea M. Strle
Carol A. Taylor
Kelly M. Terry
John S. VanNorman
Rebecca Visgaitis
Dennis P. Whalen
Jay Wuebbold



The Office of the Administrative Director led the Court through its first strategic planning process in 2008. With the input of the Justices, all Court staff and outside stakeholders, the Court's senior staff engaged in a collaborative process to produce the following vision and mission statements, as well as three key strategies to guide the administrative operation of the Court for the next three to five years:

Vision

For the Supreme Court of Ohio to administer justice with integrity and provide leadership for the judicial branch of Ohio government.

Mission

The Supreme Court will accomplish this vision by:

- Applying and promoting standards of impartiality and fairness
- Strengthening the judiciary, courts, and bar of Ohio
- Fostering collaboration with its justice system partners
- Serving as a catalyst for the strategic direction of the justice system.

Strategy

- Simplify processes
- Foster uniformity
- Enhance communication and collaboration.

During 2008, the Office of the Administrative Director also oversaw the preparation of a proposed operating budget for the Supreme Court, judiciary and courts of appeals for fiscal years 2010 and 2011. Individual Court offices aligned their budget proposals with the strategic goals produced by the strategic planning process, resulting in more uniform and comprehensive budget priorities.

The office also worked with then-Attorney General Nancy Rogers, the Ohio State Bar Association and others to launch the Legal Education Opportunity (LEO) program. The LEO program provides minority and educationally disadvantaged students with opportunities to foster an interest in a legal career.

Using funds provided by the Supreme Court, the LEO program sponsored the Law & Leadership Summer Institute in Cleveland and Columbus. The summer institute involved 34 incoming high school freshmen in a five-week program

that included classroom activities, hands-on experiences at law offices and governmental offices, and concluded with a mock trial, which allowed the students to try a criminal case. The students who participated in the summer institute remain part of the LEO program through participation in law-related activities during the school year. A second class of summer institute students will be invited to participate in the 2009 program, and planning is under way to expand the program to Akron, Cincinnati, Dayton and Toledo.

Commission on the Rules of Superintendence for Ohio Courts

The Commission on the Rules of Superintendence for Ohio Courts is a 19-member commission that makes recommendations to the Court for adoption of new rules and amendments to the Rules of Superintendence for Ohio Courts. During 2008, the commission completed work on rules regarding public access to court records, qualifications for magistrates, and court security standards. The commission also began work on rules regarding certification of court reporters, standards and training for guardians ad litem and a reorganization/restructuring of the rules.

Commission on the Rules of Practice & Procedure

The Commission on the Rules of Practice & Procedure is a 19-member commission that receives and considers proposed rules and amendments to the Rules of Appellate Procedure, Civil Procedure, Criminal Procedure, Juvenile Procedure, the Traffic Rules and the Rules of Evidence, and recommends rules and amendments to the Supreme Court for adoption. In 2008, the commission finalized work on several rule amendments that became effective July 1, 2008, including an amendment to Crim. R. 43 to give courts more flexibility in the use of video teleconferencing, an amendment clarifying App. R. 22 on entries of judgment, and amendments to rules governing electronic discovery in civil cases.

Task Force on the Code of Judicial Conduct

In 2008, the task force completed its work, culminating in the Supreme Court of Ohio's adoption of a new Code of Judicial Conduct, effective March 1, 2009. The task force completed its review of the 2007 ABA Model Code of Judicial Conduct and

COMMISSION ON THE RULES OF SUPERINTENDENCE FOR OHIO COURTS

Jo Ellen Cline, staff liaison

Hon. Deborah A. Alspach
 Hon. Patricia Ann Blackmon
 Hon. Patricia A. Cosgrove
 Hon. Theresa Dellick
 Hon. Charlotte Coleman
 Eufinger
 Hon. Gary W. Herman
 Steven C. Hollon
 Hon. James M. Hughes
 Hon. William A. Klatt
 Hon. Judith Ann Lanzinger,
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 Hon. David Lewandowski
 Nancy G. McMillen
 Robert G. Palmer
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 Hon. Kenneth J. Spicer
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 Adrian D. Thompson
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 C. William Rickrich
 Hon. Michael Sage
 Nancy Schuster
 Sam Shamansky
 Hon. James Shriver
 Randall L. Solomon
 Daniel J. Steinbock
 Peter H. Weinberger
 Hon. David Yost



TASK FORCE ON THE CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Richard A. Dove, staff liaison

Bernard K. Bauer
Marianna Brown Bettman
Hon. Thomas Bryant, chair
Hon. C. Douglas Chamberlain
Hon. Colleen C. Cooney
Jonathan Coughlan
Hon. John M. Durkin
Kathleen Graham
Jonathan Hollingsworth
Hon. James D. Jensen
George D. Jonson
Marvin L. Karp
Jonathan Marshall
Jean M. McQuillan
Hon. John R. Milligan Jr.
Theresa B. Proenza
Hon. Arlene Singer
Hon. David Sunderman
William K. Weisenberg

TASK FORCE ON COMMERCIAL DOCKETS

John S. VanNorman,
staff liaison

Hon. John P. Bessey,
co-chair
Patrick F. Fischer, co-chair
Hon. Reeve W. Kelsey
James C. Kennedy
Hon. William A. Klatt
Harry D. Mercer
Scott E. North
Robert G. Palmer
Jeanne M. Rickert
John S. Stith
Adrian D. Thompson

submitted a report and recommendations to the Court in June 2008. The task force recommendations were published by the Court for comment in August and returned to the Court for further consideration in December. Upon the Court's adoption of the revised Code of Judicial Conduct, Ohio became the fifth state to modify its code based on the 2007 ABA revisions.

Task Force on Commercial Dockets

Chief Justice Thomas J. Moyer established the Supreme Court Task Force on Commercial Dockets June 1, 2007, charging it with assessing the best method of establishing commercial dockets in the courts of common pleas by developing, overseeing and evaluating up to five commercial docket pilot projects. On May 6, 2008, the Justices of the Supreme Court adopted the task force's proposed Temporary Rules 1.01 through 1.11 of the Rules of Superintendence, which govern the commercial docket pilot projects.

Following the enactment of the temporary rules, the task force completed its initial work by establishing commercial docket pilot projects in the courts of common pleas of Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton and Lucas counties. The Chief Justice also designated two commercial docket judges for each court. On Dec. 1 and 2, 2008, the task force conducted an introductory training course for the commercial docket judges and their staff. Each commercial docket pilot project is operational, and the task force has begun the oversight and early evaluation phases of its work.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

The Office of Public Information is the Court's central communications office. The office manages the Court's Web site, publishes the Court's print publications, corresponds with constituents, responds to media inquiries, staffs the Court's main phone lines and receptionist desk, and writes articles about Court cases and administrative activities for distribution as news releases, guest articles and Web content.

In 2008, the Office of Public Information continued to expand its news operation to include more stories on the Web site on a wider range of topics of interest to the judicial and legal communities. The office wrote a record 170 news stories during the year.

Work was nearly completed on a significant redesign of the Web site to allow for the display of more news and feature items. The redesign also will make the site more widely

compatible with additional platforms, applications and system configurations. It is set for launch in early 2009.

In 2008, the Office of Public Information also:

- Hosted the annual Judges & Journalists Workshop, which focused on issues of public access and privacy in the court system.
- Designed and published more than 290 print publications and materials.
- Provided design, event planning, photography and other services for the Summit on Children.
- Wrote and mailed 258 written responses to constituent letters and e-mails, a 60 percent increase over the 161 for 2007.
- Researched, wrote and distributed 312 previews of oral arguments before the Court and summaries of merit decisions.
- Fielded 727 media inquiries.
- Answered 17,701 phone calls to the Court's main phone lines.

CIVIC EDUCATION SECTION

The Civic Education Section was created in September 2008 through the consolidation of existing staff and operations to provide education programs and outreach efforts for visitors to the Ohio Judicial Center and the public at large. These efforts include conducting tours of the building and the Visitor Education Center, coordinating the Off-Site Court program, providing assistance to the Judicial Family Network, working with international visitor groups, organizing special events, developing the Court's art collection, and increasing the Court's historical resources.

During 2008, the Visitor Education Center conducted tours for 13,154 visitors — a 27 percent increase over 2007. Eighty-two percent of the visitors were students from third grade through college. Seventeen volunteer guides donated 551³/₄ hours, which represents a market value of \$10,765.

Further, detailed plans were developed in 2008 for a new exhibit focusing on courts and science for the education center. Tentatively titled, "Identity on Trial," the exhibit will highlight the intersection of courts and science. The purpose is to illustrate how scientific advances over time have been integrated into court proceedings and outcomes. The exhibit is expected to open in the spring of 2009.



The Office of Public Information hosted nearly 100 participants for the 2008 Judges & Journalists Workshop.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIAL FAMILY NETWORK

Ruth Ann Newcomer,
staff liaison

Larry Floyd
Maureen Grady
Tim Gorman
Susan Hany
Pam Harris
Debra Howard
Susie E. Ingraham
Maryanna Klatt
Robert Lanzinger
Mary Moyer
Shannon Nelson, chair
Vernon Pringle
Laurie Repp
Reuben Sheperd
Sherri Spencer
Janet Sunderman
Sue Wolaver
Tom Zitter

**VISITOR EDUCATION
CENTER 2008
VOLUNTEERS**

Yumna Ahmad
John Anderson
Jacquelyn Belair
Linda Christman
William Corallini
Toba Feldman
Joanne Hawk
Joann Johnson
Sally Jordon
Cheri Kappeler
Stan Kronenberger
Barbara Maresca
Bill Martin
Susan McCormick
Pete Miller
Megan Morrice
Darlene Rauch
Rex Zent

**COMMISSION ON THE
OHIO JUDICIAL CENTER**

Richard A. Dove,
staff liaison

Michael L. Ball
Neema M. Bell
Mary Gray
Steven C. Hollon
Barbara Powers
Chad A. Readler, chair
Marilyn Kauff Sheridan
Richard C. Simpson
Craig Weise

The Civic Education Section also:

- Coordinated Off-Site Court sessions in Union and Shelby counties, which attracted about 1,120 student and teacher observers.
- Hosted a reception for 320 guests to honor the artists and benefactors who support the extensive public art collection on display throughout the Ohio Judicial Center.
- Hosted a six-member delegation of Ukrainian judges for a week-long study of the American judicial system.
- Designed and produced four programs for the Judicial Family Network.
- Produced a new mock trial program for middle school students.
- Expanded its database to provide better information about group visits.

Commission on the Ohio Judicial Center

The Commission on the Ohio Judicial Center held its first meeting Oct. 24, 2008. The 11-member commission is charged with assisting and advising the Court on maintaining the artistic, architectural and historic integrity of the Ohio Judicial Center. At its initial meeting, the commission prioritized its initial activities by creating three committees, two of which develop standards related to the acquisition of fine art and public use of the Ohio Judicial Center. The third oversees the establishment of the Ohio Judicial Center Trust for the receipt of property and financial donations to the Ohio Judicial Center.



Civic Education Section Manager Jay Wuebbold addresses visitors in Hearing Room 106.

Work Continues to Ensure Equal Access, Racial Fairness

Under the leadership of the Administrative Division, the Supreme Court continues to implement recommendations of the Ohio Commission on Racial Fairness, fulfilling its commitment to ensuring equal access to justice and fairness in the courts.

Chief Justice Moyer formed the commission as a joint initiative of the Court and the Ohio State Bar Association. In 1999, the commission issued a report with nearly 70 recommendations aimed at increasing minority representation in the legal profession and reducing perceptions of racial bias in the justice system.

The Chief Justice formed the Racial Fairness Implementation Task Force to develop a plan to carry out the commission recommendations. Many were implemented, while others remain ongoing.

“We are committed to working with the legal community to ensure that Ohioans have the highest level of confidence in the impartiality of the legal system,” Chief Justice Moyer said.

In response to the commission’s call for more information about racial disparities in the judicial system, the Court began in March 2001 to collect and track racial, gender and ethnic data for Ohio attorneys through the attorney registration process.

Chief Justice Moyer supports the recommendation to implement a reliable system for collecting racial and ethnic data of criminal defendants and is working with judicial community leaders to effect one.

The Court also addressed the recommendation to develop an anti-racism workshop for judges. In 2008, the Judicial College added a component on diversity and racial fairness in the courts to the mandatory New Judges Orientation seminar. The Court also approved adding two hours of training on access to justice and fairness in the courts — including race and ethnicity considerations — to the mandatory continuing education requirements for the judiciary.

Also this past year, the Court and Ohio State Bar Association initiated a program to attract minority students to Ohio law schools. The Court collaborated with law schools and the bar to develop the Law & Leadership Summer Institute, offering ninth-grade students who are from underserved communities and who have an interest in the law the chance to study law for five weeks at The Ohio State University and Cleveland State University. The goal is to expose students to the legal profession and help them as they complete high school and enter college.

The Court answered the call to improve interpreter services in Ohio courts with the creation of a permanent program and advisory committee. In 2003, the Court launched the Interpreter Services Program, which has created and disseminated valuable tools for judges and court staff statewide, including a DVD, bench cards and a handbook. The program also collaborated with the Judicial College to offer training for court interpreters, judges and court personnel. The Advisory Committee on Interpreter Services was established in 2005 to support the work of the program.

We are committed to working with the legal community to ensure that Ohioans have the highest level of confidence in the impartiality of the legal system.

— Chief Justice
Thomas J. Moyer



Clerk's Division

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Kristina D. Frost
Clerk

CASE MEDIATION SECTION

William A. Zapp
Mediation Counsel



The Clerk's Division oversees the filing of all case-related documents and maintains all case files in matters pending before the Supreme Court. In addition to managing the cases filed, the clerk maintains case dockets, the Court's journal and, in pending cases, the trial and district appellate court records. The clerk also prepares and issues Court orders, schedules oral arguments and the Court's consideration of other case matters, and coordinates interagency communication in death-penalty cases. The Clerk's Division also includes the Case Mediation Section, which moved from the Legal Resources Division in July 2008 to better coordinate caseload and improve communications and case tracking.

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

The Office of the Clerk maintains and enforces the Rules of Practice of the Supreme Court, recommending amendments as appropriate to the Court. Deputy clerks and staff attorneys provide assistance on procedural issues to attorneys, litigants and the public through written communications, seminar presentations, and telephone and office consultations. The office also provides answers to frequently asked questions on the Supreme Court Web site.

In 2008, the office led the division in a strategic-planning initiative to develop goals and vision, mission and core value statements. Goals included creating practice and procedure guidelines for each position; increasing professional development; developing a comprehensive records retention process; revising reporting standards for case statistics and accepting credit card payments.

CASE MEDIATION SECTION

The Case Mediation Section conducts mediation for appellate cases and original actions. Mediation is a settlement process in which the mediation counsel meets informally with Supreme Court litigants, encouraging them to develop workable solutions away from the courtroom. The section brings parties together in confidential negotiating sessions facilitated by the mediation counsel, who monitors settlement solutions.

In 2008, the section reviewed 175 cases, focusing on state and local tax cases, workers' compensation matters and extraordinary writs. The Court referred 85 of the cases to mediation, and the section cleared 82 cases, 24 of which were settled after one or more mediation conference. In all, the section conducted 202 mediation conferences.

CLERK'S DIVISION 2008 STAFF

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Kristina D. Frost
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Sandra H. Grosko
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Nathan L. Wasson
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2008 CASE STATISTICS SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY

In 2008, Supreme Court of Ohio case filings increased by 2 percent from 2007. The total number of cases filed in 2008 was 2,506, compared with 2,459 in 2007. In three of the last five years, case filings increased an average of 2 percent.

Case dispositions increased by 6 percent in 2008, 2,542 versus 2,384 in 2007. The increase in disposed cases reduced the cases pending on Dec. 31, 2008, to 892 cases; the Court had 928 cases pending at the end of 2007. These numbers translate to a 101 percent case-clearance rate in 2008, versus 97 percent in 2007.

The percent of pro se filings was consistent each year from 2004 to 2008, ranging from a low of 31 percent in 2004, to a high of 37 percent in the past year. The most recent year in which the Court had a pro se caseload of 37 percent was 2006, when 885 pro se cases were filed.

In 2008, 919 cases were filed by pro se litigants. This number increased over the number filed in 2007 by 88 cases.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY	
928	CASES PENDING JAN. 1, 2008
2,506	CASES FILED
2,004	Jurisdictional appeals
369	Merit cases
133	Practice of law cases
2,542	CASE DISPOSITIONS
1,868	Jurisdictional appeals
565	Merit cases
109	Practice of law cases
892	CASES PENDING DEC. 31, 2008
101%	CLEARANCE RATE

2008 CASE STATISTICS CASES FILED*

TOTAL CASES FILED	2,506
<hr/>	
JURISDICTIONAL APPEALS	2,004
Claimed appeals of right	16
Discretionary appeals (non-felony) ¹	971
Discretionary appeals (felony) ¹	857
Death penalty postconviction appeals	13
Appeals involving termination of parental rights/adoption	20
Appeals from App.R. 26(B) applications (<i>Murnahan</i> appeals)	127
<hr/>	
MERIT CASES	369
Original actions	138
Habeas corpus cases	59
Direct appeals (cases originating in court of appeals)	94
Appeals involving certified conflicts	22
Appeals from Board of Tax Appeals	40
Appeals from Public Utilities Commission	6
Death penalty cases ²	3
Cases involving certified questions of state law	4
Appeals of election contests under R.C. 3515.15	1
<hr/>	
PRACTICE OF LAW CASES ³	133
Disciplinary cases	121
Bar admissions cases	5
Unauthorized practice of law cases	7

* See page 44 for notes.



2008 CASE STATISTICS FINAL DISPOSITIONS*

2,542	TOTAL DISPOSITIONS
1,868	JURISDICTIONAL APPEALS (jurisdiction declined, leave to appeal denied and/or appeal dismissed)
19	Claimed appeals of right
873	Discretionary appeals (non-felony) ⁴
821	Discretionary appeals (felony) ⁴
9	Death penalty postconviction appeals
19	Appeals involving termination of parental rights/adoption
127	Appeals from App.R. 26(B) applications (<i>Murnahan</i> appeals)
565	MERIT CASES
142	Original actions
57	Habeas corpus cases
105	Direct appeals (cases originating in court of appeals)
44	Appeals involving certified conflicts
2	Appeals involving certified conflicts that involve termination of parental rights/adoption
34	Appeals from Board of Tax Appeals
6	Appeals from Public Utilities Commission
5	Death penalty cases ⁵
163 ⁶	Jurisdictional appeals accepted for review
4	Cases involving certified questions of state law
2	Appeals from App.R. 26(B) applications in death penalty cases
1	Appeals of election contests under R.C. 3515.15
109	PRACTICE OF LAW CASES⁷
101	Disciplinary cases — all case types
6	Bar admissions cases
2	Unauthorized practice of law cases

*See page 44 for notes.

2008 CASE STATISTICS CASES PENDING DEC. 31, 2008*

TOTAL CASES PENDING	892
<hr/>	
JURISDICTIONAL APPEALS AND MERIT CASES	826
Jurisdictional appeals	534
Jurisdictional appeals accepted for review	115
Original actions	23
Habeas corpus cases	8
Direct appeals (cases originating in court of appeals)	61
Appeals involving certified conflicts	25
Appeals from Board of Tax Appeals	34
Appeals from Public Utilities Commission	5
Death penalty cases ⁸	16
Cases involving certified questions of state law	4
Appeals of election contests under R.C. 3515.15	1
<hr/>	
DISCIPLINARY CASES	57
Cases on report of board	40
Consent to discipline cases	6
Attorney resignation cases	4
Reciprocal discipline cases	2
Mental illness cases	2
Cases on felony conviction	2
Judge disciplinary cases involving campaign conduct	1
<hr/>	
BAR ADMISSIONS CASES	2
Character and fitness cases	2
<hr/>	
UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF LAW CASES	7
Cases on report of board	6
Consent decree cases	1

* See page 44 for notes.



2008 CASE STATISTICS PRACTICE OF LAW CASES — DETAIL OF CASES FILED

133	PRACTICE OF LAW CASES - CASES FILED
121	DISCIPLINARY CASES
70	Cases on report of board
12	Consent to discipline cases
13	Attorney resignation cases
5	Reciprocal discipline cases
2	Mental illness cases
13	Cases upon felony conviction
3	Cases on motion for interim remedial suspension
1	Judge disciplinary cases
2	Judge disciplinary cases involving campaign conduct
5	BAR ADMISSIONS CASES
5	Character and fitness cases
7	UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF LAW CASES
6	Cases on report of board
1	Consent decree cases



2008 CASE STATISTICS

PRACTICE OF LAW CASES — DETAIL OF FINAL DISPOSITIONS

PRACTICE OF LAW CASES - FINAL DISPOSITIONS	109
<hr/>	
DISCIPLINARY CASES	101
<hr/>	
<u>On report of board</u>	70
Public reprimand	4
Definite suspension	35
Indefinite suspension	12
Disbarment	8
Consent to discipline cases — case dismissed	1
Consent to discipline cases — public reprimand	5
Consent to discipline cases — definite suspension	4
Judge discipline cases — disbarment	1
<u>Attorney resignation cases</u>	13
Case dismissed	1
Resignation accepted	3
Resignation accepted; disciplinary action pending	9
<u>Reciprocal discipline cases</u>	3
Public reprimand	1
Definite suspension	2
<u>Disciplinary cases/felony convictions</u>	11
Interim suspension	11
<u>Disciplinary cases/interim remedial suspensions</u>	3
Interim suspension	3
<u>Judge disciplinary cases involving campaign conduct</u>	1
Code violation found	1
<hr/>	
BAR ADMISSIONS/CHARACTER AND FITNESS CASES	6
Applicant disapproved, may reapply	6
<hr/>	
UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF LAW CASES/ON REPORT OF BOARD	2
Respondent enjoined from actions constituting the unauthorized practice of law	1
Respondent enjoined from actions constituting the unauthorized practice of law and civil penalty imposed	1



2008 CASE STATISTICS NOTES

1. This category includes cases in which the appellant sought jurisdiction as both a discretionary appeal and a claimed appeal of right.
2. All three death penalty cases filed in 2008 were appeals from the courts of common pleas in which the death penalty was imposed for an offense committed on or after Jan. 1, 1995.
3. See page 42 for a breakdown of cases relating to the practice of law that were filed in 2008.
4. This category includes cases in which the appellant sought jurisdiction as both a discretionary appeal and a claimed appeal of right.
5. This category includes one case involving an appeal from a court of appeals for a capital offense committed before Jan. 1, 1995, and four cases involving appeals from the courts of common pleas in which the death penalty was imposed for an offense committed on or after Jan. 1, 1995.
6. This number includes two appeals, case nos. 2007-1832 and 2008-0678, that were initially dismissed by the Court, but later accepted on motions for reconsideration.
7. See page 43 for the final dispositions entered in practice of law cases.
8. All 16 cases involve appeals from the courts of common pleas in which the death penalty was imposed for an offense committed on or after Jan. 1, 1995.



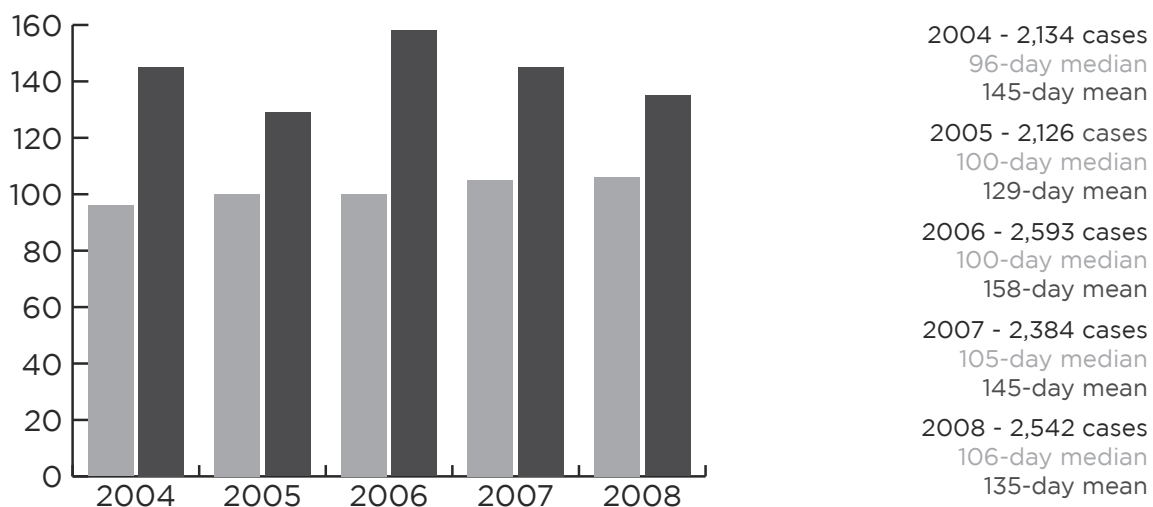
2008 CASE STATISTICS TIME TO DISPOSITION

Case-processing time reports are a new view of data collected through the Office of the Clerk's case management system. These reports look at cases from the date of disposition and reveal the mean and median* number of days taken to dispose of cases. Reports are generated for broad case-type categories and provide a comprehensive view of the Court's work.

All Cases

Days from filing to final disposition

In 2008, the Court disposed of 2,542 cases; the mean number of days those cases were pending before the Court was 135. The mean steadily declined over the last three years.



*Mean and median are both measures of central tendency, a term that refers to the "middle" value of a set of data. Arithmetic mean is calculated by dividing the sum of a data set by the number of items in the set. Median is determined by sorting the data set from lowest to highest value and identifying the data point in the middle of the range. It is the midpoint of the data at which half the items are higher and half are lower. Median, unlike arithmetic mean, is not subject to the skewing effect of outliers; that is, data points at an extreme margin on the range of values.

2008 CASE STATISTICS TIME TO DISPOSITION

Jurisdictional Appeals Accepted for Full Merit Review Days from filing to final disposition

In 2008, the Court accepted 157 jurisdictional appeals for full merit review. The mean number of days to consider these appeals was 401, down from 433 in 2007.

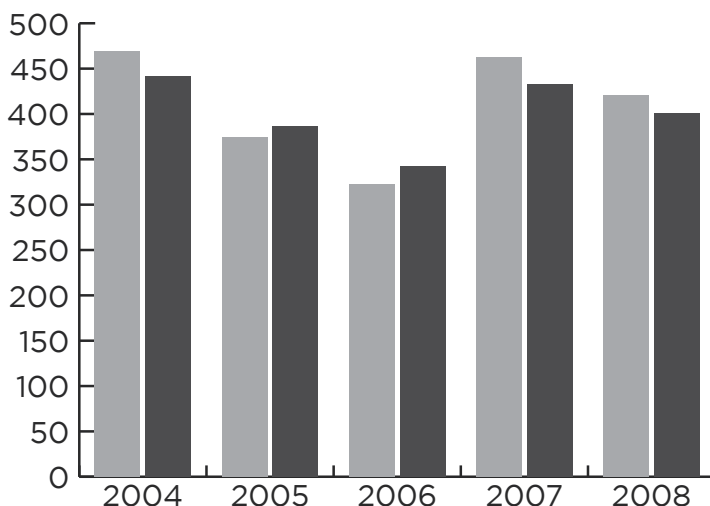
2004 - 141 cases
469-day median
442-day mean

2005 - 69 cases
374-day median
387-day mean

2006 - 382 cases
322-day median
342-day mean

2007 - 191 cases
462-day median
433-day mean

2008 - 157 cases
421-day median
401-day mean



Jurisdictional Appeals Not Accepted for Full Merit Review Days from filing to final disposition

Of the 2,542 cases disposed of by the Court in 2008, 1,868 cases, or 73 percent of the Court's caseload, were jurisdictional appeals not accepted for full merit review. The mean time to consider these appeals was 101 days. The mean remained constant over the past five years, ranging from 91 to 101 days.

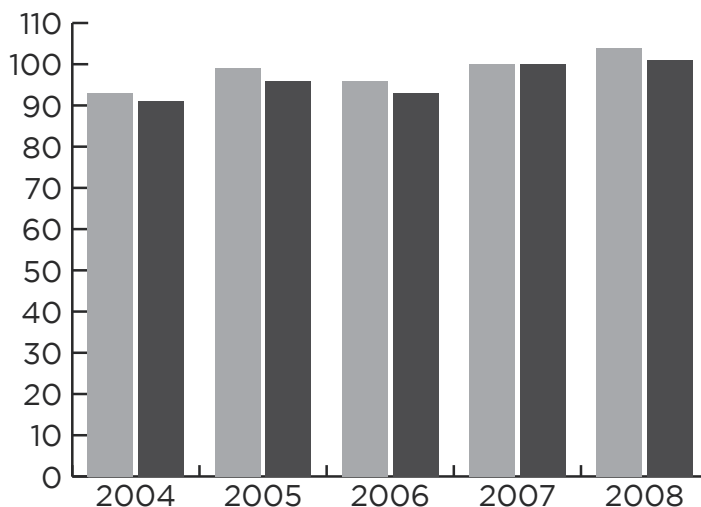
2004 - 1,463 cases
93-day median
91-day mean

2005 - 1,555 cases
99-day median
96-day mean

2006 - 1,568 cases
96-day median
93-day mean

2007 - 1,649 cases
100-day median
100-day mean

2008 - 1,868 cases
104-day median
101-day mean

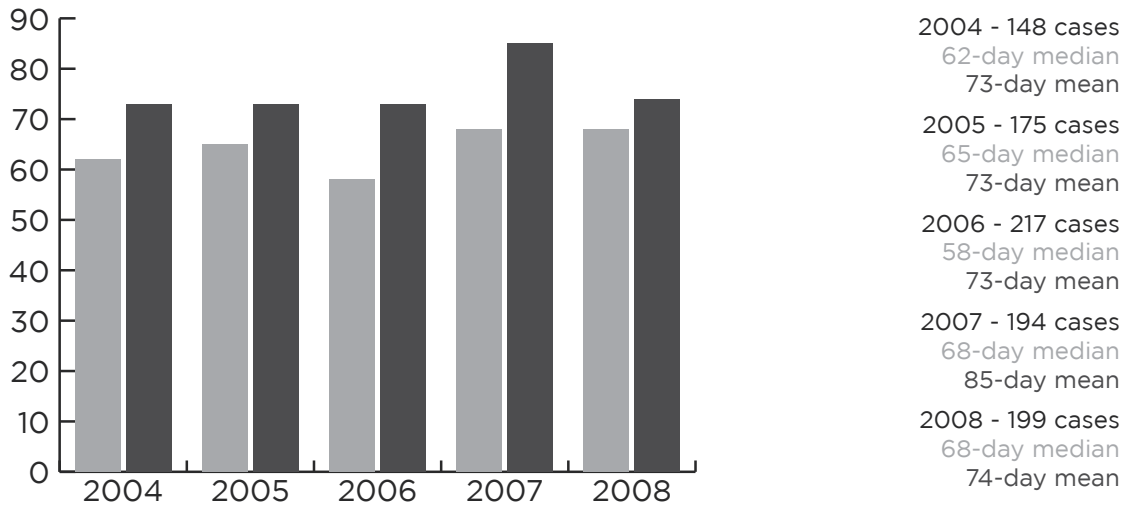


2008 CASE STATISTICS TIME TO DISPOSITION

Original Actions

Days from filing to final disposition

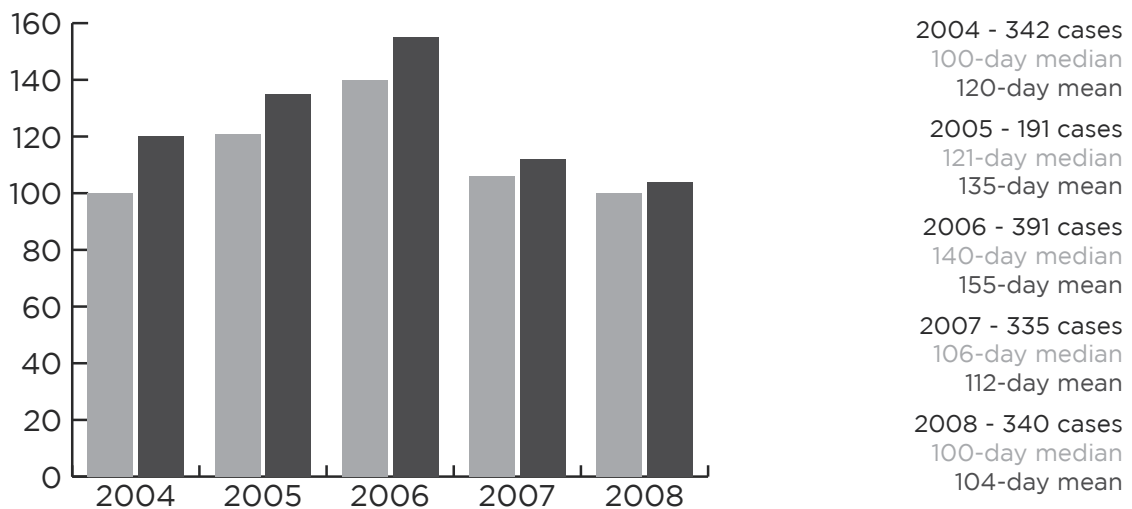
The mean disposition time for original actions in 2008 was 74 days. The median number of days remained steady over the past five years, ranging from 58 to 68 days.



All Cases Decided with an Opinion

Days from submission to Court to issuance of opinion

In 2008, the Court decided 340 cases with an opinion. The mean number of days to decide these cases was 104. Since 2006, the mean declined from 155 to 104 days in 2008. The electronic release of opinions contributed to this reduction.



Legal Resources Division

OFFICE OF LEGAL RESOURCES

Arthur J. Marziale Jr.
Director

OFFICE OF THE REPORTER

Ralph W. Preston
Reporter of Decisions

LAW LIBRARY

Ken Kozlowski
Director



The Legal Resources Division consists of the Office of Legal Resources, the Office of the Reporter and the Law Library. The Office of Legal Resources is the lead office of the division and assists the Supreme Court in resolving complex legal issues pending before the Court. The Office of the Reporter is responsible for publishing the opinions of the Court and trial and appellate courts of Ohio. The Law Library is one of the largest state law libraries in the country, with a comprehensive collection of Ohio, federal and state legal resources available to the public.

OFFICE OF LEGAL RESOURCES

The staff attorneys — known as master commissioners — in the Office of Legal Resources provided research and writing support to the Justices in 2008 on the non-discretionary portion of the Court's docket. This included death penalty appeals (34 memos, drafts or research projects on conviction and postconviction matters), public utility appeals (20 memos, drafts or research projects), workers' compensation appeals (40 memos, drafts or research projects), state tax appeals (45 memos, drafts or research projects), extraordinary writs (301 memos, drafts, research projects or orders), and attorney disciplinary cases (81 memos, drafts or research projects). They also assisted the Chief Justice with processing 124 affidavits of disqualification.

Also in 2008, Arthur J. Marziale Jr. joined the office as division director. He previously served as the director of the State Employee Relations Board.

OFFICE OF THE REPORTER

The Office of the Reporter edits all opinions prior to release by the Court, and prepares and releases slip opinions, daily case announcements, and periodic administrative actions. The office also publishes the weekly *Ohio Official Reports* advance sheets and the bound volumes of the *Ohio Official Reports*. The office maintains the Court's opinions and announcements Web page, on which nearly 60,000 Supreme Court, court of appeals and trial court opinions are posted, all of which are easily accessible to the public at no cost.

During 2008, the Office of the Reporter edited and published 396 Supreme Court opinions, 106 court of appeals opinions, and five Court of Claims and trial court opinions in the *Ohio Official Reports* advance sheets. The 396 Supreme Court opinions required 2,352 pages in the advance sheets, while the

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106 court of appeals opinions required 4,057 pages. Overall, the Office of the Reporter was responsible for the content of approximately 9,000 pages of the *Ohio Official Reports* advance sheets during 2008.

In addition, during 2008, the Office of the Reporter posted 428 Supreme Court opinions and 314 case announcements and administrative actions to the Supreme Court Web site. The office staff also posted 5,859 court of appeals opinions, 369 Court of Claims opinions and 39 trial court opinions to the Supreme Court's site.

LAW LIBRARY

The Law Library offers research assistance and online database access to both Court staff and public patrons. In 2008, the Library served more than 6,300 public patrons, answered nearly 10,000 reference questions, circulated about 1,600 books and provided nearly 80,000 photocopies. Library staff also assisted the state's prison population by responding to 4,304 letters requesting research help or documents, which required the Library to provide nearly 240,000 additional photocopies. Additionally, the staff checked in and distributed more than 21,000 items, and processed more than 22,000 item records from the Law Library's collection of materials.

During 2008, the Law Library expanded its electronic resources available to Court staff and the public and continued to increase its reputation among the local and state library communities in the areas of legal research and resource sharing.

Law Library staff members also continue involvement with projects, associations and committees outside the Court, including the Columbus and Ohio bar associations, the Ohio Library Support Staff Institute, Ohio Law Libraries Consortium, Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries, American Association of Law Libraries, and the Ohio Electronic Records Committee.



SUPREME COURT MAKES 1912 CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY

Researching a critical piece in the history of the Ohio Constitution now is easier because of the efforts of Supreme Court staff members.

More than 2,000 pages of the *Proceedings and Debates of the Constitutional Convention of the State of Ohio 1912* were posted in searchable format on the Supreme Court Web site in November 2008. Law students, researchers, the bench, the bar and history buffs now can access a word-for-word account of delegate discussions during the convention's 22 weeks of meetings.

Steven H. Steinglass, professor of law and dean emeritus at the Cleveland State University Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, originally asked Justice O'Connor for help in mobilizing Supreme Court resources to digitize the historical records.

Steinglass, who teaches a course on the history of the Ohio Constitution, said the 1912 proceedings were the most significant piece of Ohio constitutional history that remained offline.

Supreme Court staff members scanned all 2,254 pages of the proceedings, grouped the pages according to date and linked each day's proceedings to a PDF document with search capabilities.

Among some of the more interesting facts in the volumes are the 42 amendments proposed by the convention, as well as the names, addresses and occupations of the delegates from all 88 counties.

To access the documents, visit supremecourt.ohio.gov.

Free Legal Research Training Offered

In recognition of the 50th anniversary of National Library Week in April, the Supreme Court made trainers from LexisNexis and Westlaw available to conduct training on legal research tools.

Offered free to library patrons for the first time, the training included beginner and intermediate sessions on searching and menu navigation techniques. Law Library Director Ken Kozlowski said the training was a way for those not adept at using legal research tools to gain a comfort level.

Staff from state agencies, attorneys, paralegals, law clerks and patrons from the general public participated.



Attorney Services Division

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY SERVICES

Susan B. Christoff

Director

OFFICE OF BAR ADMISSIONS

Lee Ann Ward

Director



The Supreme Court of Ohio, by authority of Article IV of the Ohio Constitution, has original jurisdiction in matters relating to admission to the practice of law, the discipline of those admitted to the practice of law and all other matters related to the practice of law. The primary responsibility of the Attorney Services Division is to assist the Supreme Court in its regulation of the practice of law in Ohio.

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY SERVICES

The Office of Attorney Services is responsible for maintaining the registration records for attorneys admitted in Ohio and ensuring attorneys register in accordance with the registration requirements. The office also is responsible for ensuring the rules governing attorney continuing legal education are enforced.

Additionally, the office maintains files regarding lawyer referral and information services and legal service plans, as established in Gov. Bar R. XVI.

In 2008, the Office of Attorney Services implemented changes to the educational requirements for attorneys who are newly admitted to the practice of law in Ohio. The Supreme Court adopted amendments that replaced the former rule and that require new attorneys to take a two-day program within one calendar year of their admission. The new rule provides new attorneys with more opportunities and flexibility in meeting their educational requirements.

The office also supports the work of the Commission on Continuing Legal Education, Commission on Professionalism, Board on the Unauthorized Practice of Law, Commission on Certification of Attorneys as Specialists, and the Committee on the Appointment of Counsel for Indigent Defendants in Capital Cases.

Commission on Continuing Legal Education

In December 2008, the Commission on Continuing Legal Education for the first time imposed sanctions against attorneys for noncompliance with CLE rules, sanctioning 416 attorneys for noncompliance for the 2008 reporting period. Previously, the Supreme Court issued CLE sanctions against attorneys. The Court authorized the commission to sanction attorneys in its November 2007 amendment to Gov. Bar R. X.

ATTORNEY SERVICES DIVISION 2008 STAFF

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Jodie M. Marmon
Teresa L. McCoy
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Roselyn R. Smith
Denise L. Spencer
Jane Sturgeon
Lee Ann Ward
Barbara J. White
Tammy J. White
Kelly J. Witt
Sheila A. Woods



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Hon. Richard K. Warren

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N. Victor Goodman
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Mark J. Huller
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Kenneth A. Kraus
James W. Lewis
Curtis J. Sybert
Kevin L. Williams
Patricia A. Wise

Commission on Professionalism

The Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism promotes professionalism among attorneys admitted to practice law in Ohio by devoting its attention to the law as a profession and maintaining the highest standards of integrity and honor among members of the profession. The commission is governed by Gov. Bar. Rule XV.

Among the commission's duties are:

- Monitoring and coordinating professionalism efforts and activities in Ohio courts, bar associations, law schools and other entities.
- Promoting and sponsoring state and local activities to emphasize and enhance professionalism.
- Developing and making available educational materials and other information emphasizing and enhancing professionalism for use by judicial organizations, bar associations, law schools and other entities.
- Assisting in the development of law school curricula, new lawyer training, and law school orientation and continuing education programs that emphasize professionalism.
- Making recommendations to the Supreme Court, judicial organizations, bar associations, law schools and other entities on methods by which professionalism can be enhanced.

In 2008, the Supreme Court adopted *Lawyer to Lawyer* mentoring as a permanent program. Administered by the Commission on Professionalism, the program matches newly admitted lawyers with established professionals to promote professionalism among new attorneys and help them make the transition from student to lawyer. Attorneys who took and passed the November 2008 bar examination were the first eligible to participate in the permanent program.

Board on the Unauthorized Practice of Law

The Board on the Unauthorized Practice of Law is established by Gov. Bar R. VII and has 12 members appointed to a three-year term by the Supreme Court. The board conducts hearings, preserves the record and makes findings and recommendations to the Supreme Court in cases involving the alleged unauthorized practice of law.

In 2008, the board issued its first advisory opinions, including those regarding:

- The employment of lawyers and non-lawyers by unions to assist local bargaining units during public sector collective bargaining and labor grievance arbitrations (February).
- Non-attorneys completing mortgage forms (December).
- Non-attorneys preparing legal documents through an online legal document service (December).

Commission on Certification of Attorneys as Specialists

In 1993, the Supreme Court adopted a rule establishing a process for identifying attorneys who meet minimum standards for certification as specialists in certain fields of legal practice. Because many lawyers advertise their services, attorney specialty certification is an effort to balance the advertising with ethical and professionalism requirements set forth by the Supreme Court. Standards established under Gov. Bar R. XIV are intended to assist the public by enhancing access to quality legal services.

The Commission on Certification of Attorneys as Specialists asked the Supreme Court to approve Social Security disability law as a field subject to specialization designation. The Court approved this area of specialization in 2008.

Committee on the Appointment of Counsel for Indigent Defendants in Capital Cases

The Committee on the Appointment of Counsel for Indigent Defendants in Capital Cases administers the requirements of Sup.R. 20, including the certification of attorneys eligible to be appointed to represent indigent capital defendants.

In 2008, the committee submitted its sixth *Report of the Committee on the Appointment of Counsel for Indigent Defendants in Capital Cases*, which highlighted the committee's work from 2003 to 2007. The committee also worked on amendments to Sup.R. 20, "Appointment of Counsel for Indigent Defendants in Capital Cases," which incorporate ABA Guidelines for the Appointment and Performance of Defense Counsel in Death Penalty Cases.

COMMISSION ON CERTIFICATION OF ATTORNEYS AS SPECIALISTS

Susan B. Christoff, secretary

Linda I. Cook
Hon. Colleen Conway Cooney
Jack B. Cooper
Hon. Howard H. Harcha III
Marc J. Kessler
Heather Sanderson Lewis
Andrew J. Lukcso
William G. Meyer
Edwin Romero
Lloyd B. Snyder
Joan M. Verchot
Robert Wade Jr., chair
Bryan H. Ward
Mark A. Zicarelli

COMMITTEE ON THE APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL FOR INDIGENT DEFENDANTS IN CAPITAL CASES

Tammy White, secretary

Thomas J. Escovar
William F. Kluge
Joann M. Sahl
Timothy Young



OFFICE OF BAR ADMISSIONS

The Office of Bar Admissions supports the Supreme Court in its constitutional responsibility to regulate the admission of applicants to the practice of law in Ohio. The office processes applications for admission, including registration applications, applications to take the bar examination and applications for admission without examination; oversees character and fitness investigations of applicants; coordinates and administers semi-annual bar examinations; and organizes admission ceremonies during which eligible applicants take the oath of office.

The Office of Bar Admissions also issues miscellaneous certificates relating to bar admission, including legal intern certificates for law students working in clinical programs, temporary certificates for attorneys licensed in other states and working in law school clinical programs or other legal services programs, and certificates for foreign legal consultants. The office provides support to the Board of Bar Examiners and the Board of Commissioners on Character & Fitness.

In 2008, the office processed more than 3,100 applications, including 1,226 law student registrations, 1,770 bar exam applications, and 120 applications for admission without examination. The office also issued 485 legal intern certificates, 11 new temporary certifications and two renewal certifications. The office administered the bar exam to 1,640 applicants — 434 in February and 1,206 in July.

Additionally, office staff worked closely with the Office of Network & Technology Resources throughout the year to implement a new computer application to streamline the bar admissions process and provide better tracking. The first phase of the project was completed and the office began to enter data in the new system. Work on this major project continues.

Board of Commissioners on Character & Fitness

The Board of Commissioners on Character & Fitness is responsible for ensuring each successful applicant for admission to the practice of law possesses the requisite character, fitness and moral qualifications for admission. The board has 12 members appointed by the Court, who must be members of the Ohio bar. Pursuant to Gov. Bar R. I, Sections 10-13, the board's essential functions are to promulgate admission standards and applications; supervise the work of local bar admissions committees; review the character, fitness and moral qualifications of each applicant for admission; and hear appeals from admission applicants who receive adverse admission recommendations from local bar admission committees.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON CHARACTER & FITNESS

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Gregory L. Arnold
Mary Asbury
Andrew J. Dorman
John C. Fairweather
Hon. Nancy D. Hammond
Todd C. Hicks
Hon. Michael L. Howard
G. Scott McBride
Suzanne K. Richards, chair
Hon. David Tobin
Adolfo A. Tornichio

During 2008, the board conducted 19 hearings regarding the character and fitness of applicants for admission. The board's review committees reviewed applicant files throughout the year, and the board considered reports regarding 31 applicants who had merit hearings before board panels.

Board of Bar Examiners

The 18 members of the Board of Bar Examiners perform duties pursuant to Gov. Bar R. I. The board drafted and reviewed essay questions for the bar examinations, engaged in calibration sessions to prepare for grading exams and graded exams for the February and July 2008 bar examinations.

BOARD OF BAR EXAMINERS Lee Ann Ward, secretary

Michael M. Briley
Robert R. Byard
Ralph E. Cascarilla
Lisa Weekley Coulter
Joseph Dattilo
Jennifer E. Day
John R. Gall
Elizabeth A. Harvey
Julie A. Jones
Samuel Z. Kaplan
Edward F. Kozelek
Hon. R. Scott Krichbaum
Ellen M. McCarthy
Michael P. Morrison, chair
Robert M. Morrow
Michael E. Murman
Thomas J. Scanlon
Gerald J. Todaro
John W. Waddy Jr.
Hon. Mark K. Wiest

CLE RULE CHANGE BENEFITS NEW LAWYERS

Changes announced in August give new lawyers a wider range of options to fulfill their new lawyer education requirements. The amendments to Gov. Bar R. X took effect Nov. 1, 2008.

Attorneys still are required to earn 12 hours of new lawyer instruction, but no longer are required to do so by attending the standard two-day program. Instead, new attorneys can earn their 12 hours over the course of their reporting period, similar to how other attorneys earn CLE hours.

The new rule affects attorneys admitted to the practice of law by examination, as well as those registered for corporate status, on or after Nov. 1. Attorneys admitted to the practice of law or registered for corporate status before Nov. 1 are not affected by the new amendments and must comply with the previous requirements.

New attorneys must complete 12 hours of new lawyer training instruction during their first biennial reporting period. Three of the 12 hours must include instruction on professionalism, law office management and client fund management.



Judicial & Court Services Division

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CHILDREN, FAMILIES & THE COURTS SECTION

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DISPUTE RESOLUTION SECTION

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SPECIALIZED DOCKETS SECTION

Melissa A. Knopp
Manager

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM

Diana Ramos-Reardon
Program Manager

INTERPRETER SERVICES PROGRAM

Bruno G. Romero
Program Manager



The Judicial & Court Services Division supports all Ohio trial and appellate courts in the administration of justice by helping develop policy, training judicial officers and court staff, offering support to courts and providing guidance and access to funding.

The division provides traditional and innovative court services in response to and with respect for the needs of local courts and the public, with specialization provided by the Judicial College; the Case Management, Dispute Resolution, Specialized Dockets, and Children, Families & the Courts Sections; and the Domestic Relations and Interpreter Services Programs.

OFFICE OF JUDICIAL & COURT SERVICES

The Office of Judicial & Court Services is the lead office of the division, supporting and coordinating the efforts of the various sections and programs therein. The office maintains the Court's database of Ohio judges and assists local courts with the development of proposals for additional judgeships.

In November 2008, the office tracked all 208 judicial elections, including 53 contested races and the replacement of 29 retiring judges. Four new judgeships were filled — one each on the 12th District Court of Appeals and Champaign County Family Court, and two in the Summit County Court of Common Pleas General Division.

In late 2008, the office assisted with the transition of the Court Relations and Off-Site Court Programs to the Civic Education Section of the Administrative Division.

JUDICIAL COLLEGE

The mission of the Judicial College is to provide continuing education to judges, magistrates and court personnel in Ohio. In 2008, the college offered or hosted 141 courses and meetings for more than 9,200 attendees.

Highlights of 2008 included the creation of a business center to manage hotel and faculty contracts, expense reimbursements and attendee registrations. The Judicial College offered business-center support to the Ohio Association of Magistrates and the Ohio Association of Court Administrators, and plans to expand the center's services to the entire Judicial & Court Services Division.

Additionally, the Judicial College acquired a product for live Internet meetings and distance learning. The staff was trained to use the product and will use it for court personnel distance learning courses in 2009. The Judicial College used its distance

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learning capability to secure a \$253,210 Byrne Memorial grant for developing five Advanced Science and Technology Resource Center distance learning courses for judges throughout the United States.

Further, Judicial College staff completed the first phase of a three-year project to develop a new Court Management Program curriculum, a project led by the Institute for Court Management of the National Center for State Courts in cooperation with six other states.

The college created a curriculum development manager position to guide long-term strategic planning. New curriculum considerations included courses for guardians ad litem.

In 2008, the Judicial College board of trustees developed for the Court's approval a proposed certificate of judicial studies. The certificate would be awarded to judges who attain a significant amount of continuing education in a four-year period and write a paper of general interest to the judicial profession that is suitable for publication. The board met on a regular basis to offer guidance and advice to the Judicial College staff and fulfill the responsibilities delegated to the board of trustees under Gov. Jud. R. IV for mandatory new judge orientation, the new judge mentor program and the capital case course requirement. Judge Lee Sinclair of the Stark County Court of Common Pleas completed his second full term as a member and his third year as chair. Judge Lynn Slaby of the 9th District Court of Appeals also completed his term on the board and retired from the bench.

Further, the Court Personnel Education & Training Committee (CPET) met four times in 2008 to discuss and draft a no-show policy for non-judicial court personnel courses and new registration procedures for court personnel course brochures. The committee also considered courses co-planned and sponsored by the Judicial College and the Ohio Association of Pretrial Services Agencies, Juvenile Clerks, the Ohio Association of Municipal and County Court Clerks, the Ohio Court Reporters Association and the Ohio Chief Probation Officers Association. The committee held its first meeting using the distance learning software. CPET also added a member from the Ohio Clerk of Courts Association and a member representing judicial administrative staff.

CASE MANAGEMENT SECTION

The Case Management Section provides three primary services to courts in Ohio: caseload management assistance and training; statistical report collection and analysis; and visiting and retired judge assignments.

Section staff provide caseload management assistance by identifying where preferred practices, such as calendar management, trial management, backlog reduction and technology can enhance case management efforts. Case Management staff are available for on-site or telephone consultation with all levels of court personnel, including judges, court administrators, clerks and support staff, as well as for caseload management training.

The Case Management Section also provides guidance on the pending-case status reports required of Ohio courts. The section provides statistical report form training to judges and court staff, and analyzes, audits, and publishes statistical data from the courts.

Lastly, the section administers the judicial assignment program of the Chief Justice, who is authorized by the state constitution to assign sitting and retired judges to preside in Ohio courts to ensure the timely and efficient administration of justice.

During 2008, the Case Management Section presented four caseload management training seminars to various courts during which 162 attendees — including 18 judges — learned the fundamentals of caseload management and basic court performance measurement techniques using the National Center for State Courts' "CourTools" concepts.

Caseload management assistance also was provided to courts in Butler, Champaign, Clark, Cuyahoga, Delaware, Franklin, Greene, Lorain, Montgomery, Morrow, Ross and Stark counties in 2008.

The Case Management Section staff also provided statistical report form training to common pleas, municipal, county and mayor's courts throughout 2008. During those courses, 196 court staff members learned the proper method by which to complete the Supreme Court of Ohio statistical caseload report forms.

Further, the Case Management Section implemented a business intelligence computer application that provides for expanded caseload and performance reporting and analysis of trial courts.



CHILDREN, FAMILIES & THE COURTS SECTION

The Children, Families & the Courts Section provides technical assistance, training and policy recommendations to improve court performance in cases involving children and families. The section convenes roundtable meetings to allow local court staff to discuss common issues and share perspectives on current practice needs.

A major highlight for the year was the Ohio Summit on Children, a two-day event that brought together teams from 79 Ohio counties to share ideas on the most effective court practices for assisting children and families in contact with Ohio courts. Hosted by Chief Justice Moyer and Governor Strickland, the county teams left the Summit with work plans to implement in their home communities. During a follow-up Ohio Summit on Children Nov. 12 and 13, 2009, county teams will report their progress during the preceding months. The second event also will offer an opportunity for recognizing those communities where success can be measured in terms of positive outcomes for children and families.

During 2008, the Children, Families & the Courts staff completed a study of 2006 termination of parental rights appeals. The study was a follow-up to a similar 2002 study to determine if those districts with the longest case-processing time lines had improved between 2002 and 2006. Results indicate, however, that the overall state average for case-processing time lines lengthened by 12 days.

The section also completed a statewide survey of domestic relations courts about educational programs for parents or minors going through divorce. The survey results will assist with the development of an implementation plan for the Advisory Committee on Children, Families & the Courts' 2005 *Report and Recommendations on Family Law Reform*.

During 2008, 10 Ohio counties began implementing the Ohio Alternative Response Pilot Project. Alternative response is a form of practice in child protective services that allows for more than one method of response to accepted reports of suspected child abuse and/or neglect. Research demonstrates that, over time, families involved in an alternative response system require less court intervention.

The pilot project, which was authorized in 2006 by the Ohio General Assembly, is the result of a joint effort by the Court and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services through the Advisory Committee on Children, Families & the Courts. The American Humane Association continues to lead the consultant team, which has assisted the 10 counties with design and implementation of an Alternative Response Model for Ohio.

The counties participating in the pilot project are Clark, Fairfield, Franklin, Greene, Guernsey, Licking, Lucas, Ross, Trumbull and Tuscarawas.

Through the Advisory Committee on Children, Families & the Courts, the section assisted in an Attorney Standards of Practice project. Juvenile courts in Delaware, Hamilton, Harrison, Lake and Perry counties agreed to conduct trial implementations of two sets of attorney practice standards — the ABA *Standards of Practice for Lawyers Representing Parents in Abuse and Neglect Cases* and the Ohio Public Defender Commission’s *Standards of Representation of Clients in Juvenile Delinquency Cases*. Implementation began in 2008 and will continue into the first half of 2009.

Advisory Committee on Children, Families & the Courts

The Advisory Committee on Children, Families & the Courts makes policy recommendations to the Supreme Court through the Children, Families & the Courts Section. Projects for 2008 included alternative responses to reports of child abuse, neglect and dependency; juvenile defendant access to legal counsel; adult guardianship standards; recruitment and retention of qualified counsel serving children and families; family law reform; domestic relations court forms; and guardian ad litem standards.

The Subcommittee on Adult Guardianships completed a draft report and recommendations on standards of practice, data collection and monitoring protocols, with a final report slated for March 2009. The subcommittee also is developing a bench card for judges reviewing adult guardianship cases and plans for a 2010 Ohio Summit on Elder Abuse.

Finally, the committee formed a Subcommittee on Domestic Relations Forms to develop five uniform court forms for use in all Ohio domestic relations courts. The subcommittee will recommend forms to the advisory committee in early 2009. The forms will be considered for inclusion in the Interpreter Services Court Form Translation Project, which is translating forms into five languages.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN, FAMILIES & THE COURTS

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DISPUTE RESOLUTION SECTION

The Dispute Resolution Section promotes statewide rules and uniform standards concerning dispute resolution programs through research, legislation, local rule and policy development; provides training, roundtables and networking opportunities to judges, magistrates, attorneys, court personnel and other individuals working with court-connected dispute resolution programs; and provides technical assistance, quantitative and qualitative assessment and program development, with new and ongoing dispute resolution programs, including mediation and parenting coordination.

In February 2008, Chief Justice Moyer announced the foreclosure mediation program model, the first of its kind in the nation. The 11-step model is designed so courts can modify the model, as well as related documents and forms, based on their local needs, resources and community, while balancing the needs of all stakeholders.

During the year, section staff made presentations on foreclosure mediation to the Miami County and Akron Bar Associations and to both 2008 statewide *Save Our Homes* summits of former Treasurer of State Richard Cordray, where more than 350 Ohioans gathered to address foreclosures in Ohio.

The Dispute Resolution Section in 2008 also supported the development of mediation and parenting coordination programs in Ohio courts through grant funding. Grant funds were distributed for new and ongoing programs in 24 counties across Ohio. Courts receiving funding included those in Adams, Athens, Defiance, Fayette, Fulton, Gallia, Henry, Highland, Jackson, Lake, Mahoning, Meigs, Ottawa, Pickaway, Pike, Portage, Putnam, Ross, Sandusky, Scioto, Seneca, Vinton, Washington and Williams counties. The court programs receiving grant funding mediated more than 1,500 cases in juvenile, domestic relations, general civil and municipal courts.

The section approved 40-hour specialized family or divorce mediation trainings, conducted by Lakeland Community College, Northcoast Conflict Solutions, Community Mediation Services of Central Ohio, the University of Akron, the Cleveland Mediation Center and Capital University Law School.

The section also began developing an Ohio court mediation directory for publication in May 2009.

The Dispute Resolution staff provided 47 training seminars for more than 1,200 judges, magistrates, attorneys, mediators, court personnel and other professionals in 19 counties to improve the delivery of dispute resolution services throughout Ohio. The 13 events addressing foreclosure mediation hosted



more than 500 participants. Training topics required under Sup.R. 16 included basic mediation, domestic abuse issues and child protection mediation. Scholarships were provided for individuals to meet training requirements under Sup.R. 16.

The section cosponsored three training events with the Ohio Commission on Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management, including a two-day conflict resolution services training for judges and other elected officials and two advanced training events titled *Mediating with Highly Positional Parties*. In addition, the Dispute Resolution Section cosponsored multiple training events with Capital University Law School at The Minority Training Institute.

The section conducted nine case-specific and regional roundtables for more than 280 individuals to share best practices and provide networking opportunities. Section staff facilitated a foreclosure mediation roundtable and court-specific roundtables for municipal, domestic relations, juvenile, general division civil and appellate courts for mediators and other professionals.

Further, the section staff maintained a national presence during the year in the field of dispute resolution through active membership in the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts and the Association for Conflict Resolution and attendance at the national board meetings. The section assisted more than 15 other states in the area of foreclosure mediation. Staff also provided research to Iowa on states with certification in mediation and guidance to Alabama in establishing juvenile court mediation programs. All three Dispute Resolution managers served as role-play coaches and/or judges for national mediation and advocacy competitions at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law.

The section manager also served as the chair of the Ohio State Bar Association Dispute Resolution Committee and was reappointed to serve for another year.

Finally, the section provided Webinar presentations for the Ohio Housing Finance Agency on the topic of mediation and the counselor's role in foreclosure mediation in Ohio at *Uniting for Ohio*, the 2008 Ohio Housing Conference; foreclosure mediation at foreclosure outreach events hosted by the Ohio Treasurer of State in Mahoning, Stark, Butler and Montgomery counties; and court-based mediation process and procedure to mediation students at Capital University Law School.



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

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Advisory Committee on Dispute Resolution

During 2008, the Advisory Committee on Dispute Resolution had four meetings, the first of which, in January, was a joint meeting with the Ohio Judicial Conference Dispute Resolution Committee and the Commission on Dispute Resolution & Conflict Management. The advisory committee has three subcommittees: Training, Local Court Programs, and Standards.

In addition to offering support and guidance to the section regarding standards, training, roundtables and program development in 2008, the advisory committee also assisted in outreach to local courts; completed status reports on child protection, truancy and appellate court mediation in Ohio; and assisted in the foreclosure mediation project, including the development of the foreclosure mediation program model, a pre-filing project for Franklin County and mediation legislation.

The advisory committee also worked on an Ohio court mediation directory that represents all mediation services provided throughout the courts in Ohio. The directory includes contact information organized by court type, local rules providing for mediation, the types of mediation offered by each court and other relevant information.

Additionally in 2008, the Subcommittee on Additional Alternative Dispute Resolution Options of the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Children, Families & the Courts joined the Advisory Committee on Dispute Resolution members as four work groups under the Local Court Programs Subcommittee. The subcommittee considered the following dispute resolution processes: arbitration, early neutral evaluation, parenting coordination and collaborative law. The groups met regularly to discuss new initiatives for the advisory committee to address in 2009.

SPECIALIZED DOCKETS SECTION

The Specialized Dockets Section promotes the creation of specialized dockets with the provision of technical support and assistance to individual trial courts by analyzing the need for planning and implementing specialized dockets programs, including drug courts, mental health courts, DUI/OVI courts, re-entry courts, child-support enforcement courts, domestic violence courts and sex-offender courts. The section also designs, funds, and hosts a variety of training events for professionals with a stake in specialized dockets programs. Additionally, the section provides staff support to the Advisory Committee on Mental Illness & the Courts.

In 2008, the Specialized Dockets staff wrote and distributed *A Handbook for Developing a Mental Health Court Docket*. The handbook assists judges considering the creation of a separate mental health docket by offering guidance on assessing the needs and resources necessary for operating a mental health docket, providing the steps to follow when creating a program, and ensuring preferred practices are followed for the continued success of the 32 mental health dockets currently operating in Ohio.

Staff also provided direct technical assistance and support to courts throughout Ohio in planning, implementing and operating specialized dockets programs. In addition to supporting the 115 operating specialized dockets programs, staff worked at the municipal, common pleas and juvenile levels to develop 12 new specialized dockets, including drug, mental health and domestic violence dockets.

One of the primary methods of providing peer support and technical assistance to individuals who work with Ohio specialized dockets programs is the Ohio Specialized Dockets Practitioner Network, which is composed of eight sub-networks that meet by discipline. These sub-network meetings allow specialized dockets practitioners to discuss the challenges and successes they face in their roles on the specialized dockets court team. Further, the sub-network meetings offer opportunities for specialized dockets professionals to provide program updates, discuss program operations, and discover innovative and effective strategies employed by other specialized dockets. In 2008, Specialized Dockets staff organized and hosted 21 sub-network meetings cosponsored by the Ohio Departments of Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services.

On Nov. 20, 2008, the Supreme Court, in conjunction with the Ohio Departments of Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, hosted the fifth annual *Ohio Specialized Dockets Practitioner Network Conference*. The conference attracted 340 judges, court staff and treatment personnel. Featuring keynote speaker Cardwell Nuckols, a nationally recognized expert in the field of substance abuse treatment, the conference offered 21 individual workshops on a variety of topics related to specialized dockets program operations.

In addition to the annual conference, the Specialized Dockets Section brought in nationally recognized speakers throughout the year for one-day workshops entitled *The Neurobiology of Offender Trauma*, *Creating Trauma Informed Systems of Care* and *Bridges Out of Poverty*.



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE
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& THE COURTS**

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Advisory Committee on Mental Illness & the Courts

In 2008, the Advisory Committee on Mental Illness & the Courts (ACMIC) met quarterly to gather and share information related to mental health courts, mental health diversion projects, and services available to courts or individuals with mental illness who are involved or at risk of becoming involved with the criminal or juvenile justice system. The advisory committee, with its Re-entry Subcommittee, serves as the Diversion and Re-entry Content Working Group for the five-year, federal Transformation State Incentive Grant provided to Ohio by the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Among the projects advanced by this group was the creation and funding of a new interagency position to report to Governor Strickland on issues related to juvenile justice and mental health.

The Re-Entry Subcommittee organized several court-related workshops for the Ohio Department of Mental Health 2008 *Annual Forensic Conference*.

ACMIC has six other subcommittees working on specific projects on a more frequent basis:

- **Probation and Treatment Subcommittee:** Sponsored a two-day Advanced Mental Health Probation Officer workshop in March 2008.
- **Legislative Subcommittee:** Worked on revising language related to intervention in lieu of conviction that was submitted to the General Assembly as an amendment to H.B. 130.
- **Juvenile Issues Subcommittee:** Met several times throughout 2008 to create a resource packet on mental health issues and resources to be shared with juvenile courts and others.
- **Research Subcommittee:** Helped coordinate local public and private college researchers conducting a comprehensive study on 10 adult mental health courts in Ohio.

- Law Enforcement Subcommittee: In addition to recognizing the Crisis Intervention Team training milestone of 3,000 graduates (see photo, *below*), created a series of workshops for law enforcement officers in conjunction with the *NAMI Ohio 2008 Annual Conference*.
- Psychiatry & the Courts Subcommittee: Continued to arrange site visits and presentations on mental health courts for third- and fourth-year psychiatry residents at Ohio medical schools.



Justice Stratton (above, center) and others celebrate Ohio having trained 3,000 Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) officers. The July event celebrated officers from 64 counties, representing 232 police departments and 48 sheriff departments, who received CIT training. Justice Stratton chairs the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Mental Illness & the Courts.

We need to encourage everyone to recognize the real successes of CIT. Every time a person in crisis receives appropriate treatment in the community ... Every time a first responder intervenes with a person in crisis and safely completes their shift ... Every time a friend or family member calls and asks for a CIT-trained officer to assist someone in need, there is progress.

— Justice Evelyn Lundberg Stratton

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE
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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM

The Domestic Violence Program complements and expands Supreme Court efforts to assist and support local courts with best practices and procedures in civil and criminal domestic violence and stalking cases. The goals of the program include increasing victim safety and holding offenders accountable. The program tracks cutting-edge trends in the domestic violence field and disseminates the information to local courts and allied professionals. The program works closely with the Advisory Committee on Domestic Violence, which is appointed by the Chief Justice.

During 2008, the Domestic Violence Program staff responded to nearly 80 requests for information on a wide array of topics. The program expanded its national presence with listings as a statewide resource on the National Center for State Courts and WomenLaw.org Web sites. In addition, the program released a new informational brochure in October to coincide with the Court's recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

The program also provided technical assistance in the development of teen-dating violence legislation and the Ohio Family Violence Needs Assessment project.

The Domestic Violence Program provided leadership in retaining Ohio's eligibility for Violence Against Women Act grant monies. Under recently enacted federal requirements, judges must certify that domestic violence misdemeanants are notified of their possible firearms liability. Without such certification, the state is not eligible for grant funds. Staff also recommended changes to the domestic violence and stalking protection order forms necessitated by the legislative provisions on judicial notification. The Supreme Court adopted the recommended changes in 2008 with an effective date of Feb. 1, 2009.

In addition, program staff developed a training video explaining the changes to the protection order forms that took effect in 2007 and worked closely with the Advisory Committee on Domestic Violence subcommittees to:

- Propose new standardized forms, including motions and entries to modify or terminate a protection order and pro se contempt forms.
- Prepare a model court rule on preferred practices when issuing domestic violence protection orders.
- Recommend instructions for completing the National Crime Identification Center form (Sup.R. Form 10-A).



The program manager continued to further these endeavors and explore other issues as well, including domestic violence in later life, domestic violence data collection, and immigration issues and domestic violence. The program staff also represented the Supreme Court in statewide, multi-disciplinary groups — including the Ohio Sexual and Intimate Partner Violence Prevention Consortium, Ohio Sexual Assault Task Force and Family Violence Prevention Center Advisory Council — to ensure proper understanding of the role of the courts and the judicial system as they concern domestic violence, sexual violence and stalking.

INTERPRETER SERVICES PROGRAM

The Interpreter Services Program provides technical assistance, training and learning opportunities for courts and interpreters in the proper use of qualified court interpreters, develops practical resources to assist courts and increases access for deaf, hard-of-hearing and limited English-proficient parties and witnesses. Further, the program staff works to establish a certification process to test, certify, register and/or qualify court interpreters.

During 2008, the Interpreter Services Program staff sponsored or collaborated in 17 training seminars, including *Domestic Violence for Court Interpreters* and *Skill-building for Languages other than Spanish*.

The Supreme Court also released new superintendence rules for court interpreters, Sup R. 80 through Sup R. 88, which cover the certification and appointment of court interpreters, as well as the Code of Professional Conduct.

The program staff and members of the Advisory Committee on Interpreter Services collaborated in 2008 to complete *Interpreters in the Judicial System: A Handbook for Ohio Judges*, as well as a DVD entitled *The Role of Interpreters in the Legal System*.

Further, advisory committee members participated as faculty in training events sponsored by the program.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INTERPRETER SERVICES

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Fiscal &
Management
Resources
Division

OFFICE OF FISCAL
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Ronda E. Perri
Director

OFFICE OF HUMAN
RESOURCES

Monica Hunyadi
Director



The Fiscal & Management Resources Division provides support to the Supreme Court and Ohio judiciary in the areas of fiscal, human resources and records management, with the director of Fiscal & Management Resources providing oversight and administrative direction for the operation of the division. The division's primary responsibilities include managing the budget, providing sound internal controls consistent with auditing standards, and providing accurate reporting to allow better decision-making.

The Fiscal & Management Resources Division also coordinates the employment process, provides training programs to benefit employees, and safeguards the Court's records and assets. The division works with Court leadership to refine and implement current and new administrative policies and guidelines to better serve the operations of the Court and to provide for consistent standards and improved efficiencies.

OFFICE OF FISCAL & MANAGEMENT RESOURCES

The Office of Fiscal & Management Resources is the lead office in the division. The office was responsible for the Court's budget of more than \$145 million for fiscal year 2009. The budget supports the payment of all judge salaries in the state, the salaries of the staffs of the courts of appeals, and operation of the Ohio Judicial Center, which houses the Supreme Court of Ohio.

The office also ensures proper internal controls are in place, and administers relevant policies and guidelines, particularly in relation to purchasing, travel reimbursements and grants. Functions of the office include processing purchase requisitions and payment vouchers; budgeting, forecasting and analysis of revenues and expenditures; cash-flow management of non-General Revenue Fund monies; providing internal and external reporting to regulatory bodies as required; and certifying the inventory of Court assets.

In 2008, the Office of Fiscal & Management Resources continued implementing additional phases of a major financial system conversion managed by the state's Office of Budget and Management (OBM). General ledger, accounts payable, accounts receivable and purchasing modules were implemented as part of the Ohio Administrative Knowledge System (OAKS) conversion. During the year, the office converted budget planning and asset management modules and completed changes to general ledger and financial reporting access and functionality.

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Laura S. Smith
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Additionally, the Office of Fiscal & Management Resources submitted the biennial budget for fiscal years 2010 and 2011 to OBM for submission to the Ohio General Assembly.

The office worked with a new audit team to conclude the Court's audit of fiscal years 2007 and 2008. The audit did not identify any financial matters or internal control weaknesses required to be reported according to Government Auditing Standards.

OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES

The Office of Human Resources implements the employment policies of the Court, which includes coordinating the employment process, maintaining position and salary classifications, supervising the performance evaluation process, providing staff training programs and assuring the Court's compliance with federal and state employment laws. The office also provides payroll and benefits services for Court staff, the staff of the state courts of appeals and Ohio judges. The office provides day-to-day support to Court staff and Ohio judges in all areas of human resource management.

The Office of Human Resources worked with the Department of Administrative Services and OAKS staff in 2008 to implement electronic benefits access to facilitate the provision of paperless benefits changes within the OAKS system. New reports were designed and implemented as the expansion of data stored in the human capital portion of the OAKS system grew. The goal of a fully populated Human Resource Information System should be realized in 2009.

Support for recruiting and staffing efforts was streamlined through the implementation of the Ohio Hiring Management System (OHMS). OHMS, as implemented by the Court, facilitates nearly paperless recruiting, tracking and screening of applicants, which saves significant time and resources.

Additionally, the background-check process was improved to include supplemental key indicators. Throughout 2008, the staff assisted Court leadership with rewriting all position descriptions to include expanded physical demand and essential function details. The Human Resources staff facilitated the implementation of the state's new "Take Charge Live Well" wellness program to bring increased benefits to employees who make healthy lifestyle and care choices. The program will be expanded to include more workplace activities in 2009.

The office also provided annual policy and procedure training to all Court staff and redesigned the internal training plan to identify core and recommended curriculum for staff based on



pay grade and supervisory responsibilities. Full implementation of the new plan, along with Intranet access, will be launched in 2009. The office also assisted Court management in the design of a more robust safety and health program and facilitated the establishment of a safety committee, which meets monthly.

Support for other courts throughout the state continued with off-site performance management training and the administration of a salary survey.

2008 EMPLOYEE EVENTS COMMITTEE

Gerri Allen
Jillian Anderson
Valerie Cannell
Brian Dalton
Nancy Drake
Jennifer Dennis
Karen Fields
Brandee Preston
Lei Moore
Michele Pennington
Sandy Ringer
Matt Satterwhite
Vikkie Wilson



Staff members (from left to right) Payal Thakur, Jillian Anderson, Julie Manning and Justine Reichert relax at an employee event.

The **Employee Events Committee** is an internal committee of Supreme Court and affiliated office staff whose mission is team-building and supporting functions not funded through taxpayer dollars, such as retirement receptions and the annual holiday party for Justices and staff. The committee organizes and orchestrates various competitions throughout the year, raising funds through entrance fees and sales of food donated by employees. Staff participate in and attend these events on their lunch hours and after work.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT CENTER

The Records Management Section operates from the Court's off-site records storage facility. The center operates under a comprehensive records management policy for retention and storage of Court records.

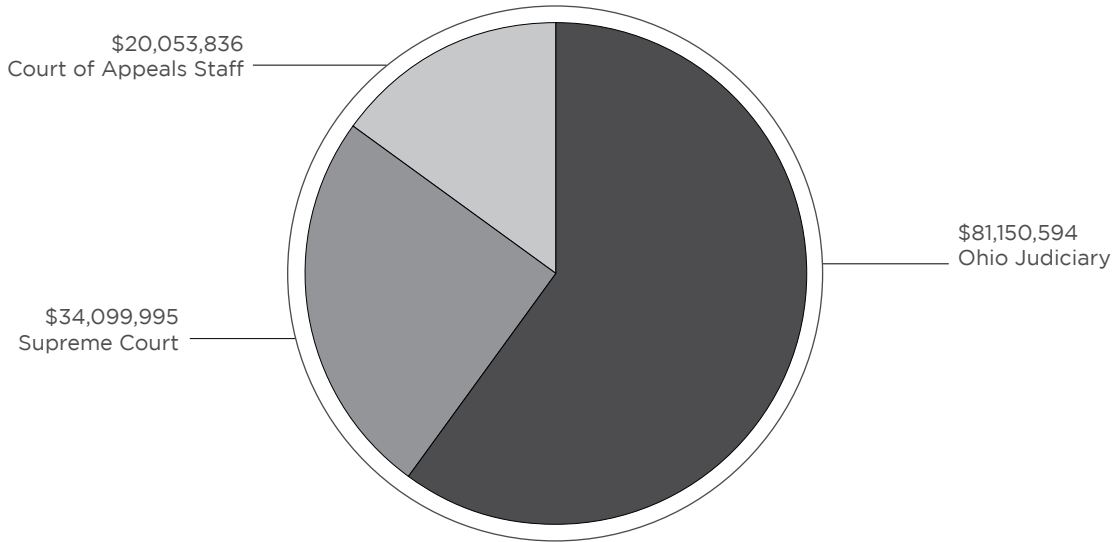
The Records Management Section in 2008 labeled, bar-coded and entered more than 3,500 boxes and files into the Court's records information management system. The Records Management Center also worked with the Office of the Clerk on a large-scale retention project, completed numerous public records requests, and recycled more than 7.4 tons of paper and electronic storage media in accordance with procedures to destroy records held beyond records-retention requirements.



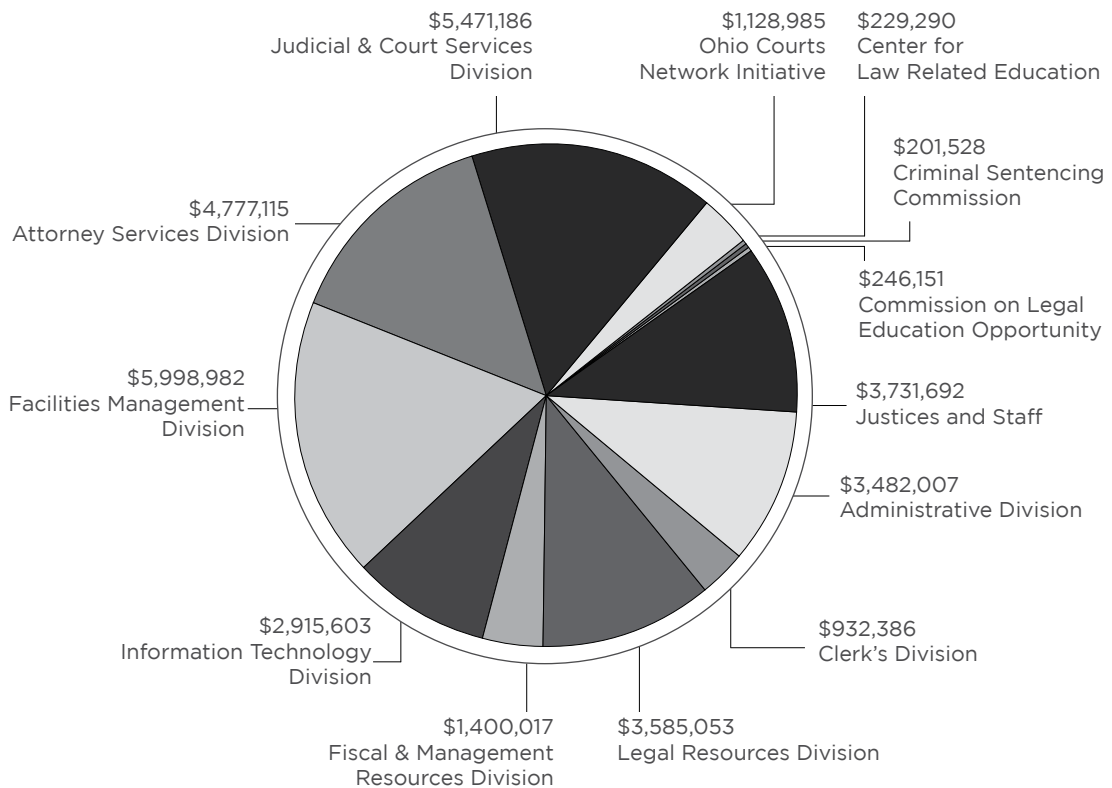
JUDICIARY/SUPREME COURT BUDGET FISCAL YEARS 2008 AND 2009

	EXPENDITURES FY 2008	PERCENT of TOTAL	BUDGETED FY 2009	PERCENT of TOTAL
OHIO JUDICIARY				
Courts of Appeals Judges	\$ 10,945,781	8.1	\$ 11,556,532	7.9
Trial Court Judges	70,204,813	51.9	72,442,597	49.7
TOTAL OHIO JUDICIARY	\$ 81,150,594	60.0	\$ 83,999,129	57.6
COURTS OF APPEALS STAFF	\$ 20,053,836	14.8	\$ 22,440,841	15.4
SUPREME COURT				
Justices and Staff	\$ 3,731,692	2.8	\$ 3,908,490	2.7
Administrative Division	3,482,007	2.6	2,539,356	1.7
Clerk's Division	932,386	0.7	1,292,284	0.9
Legal Resources Division	3,585,053	2.6	3,695,609	2.5
Fiscal & Management Resources Division	1,400,017	1.0	1,452,415	1.0
Information Technology Division	2,915,603	2.2	2,642,440	1.8
Facilities Management Division	5,998,982	4.4	5,973,401	4.1
Attorney Services Division	4,777,115	3.5	5,293,822	3.6
Judicial & Court Services Division	5,471,186	4.0	6,785,514	4.7
Ohio Courts Network Initiative	1,128,985	0.8	4,850,000	3.3
Commission on Legal Education Opportunity	246,151	0.2	350,000	0.2
Ohio Center for Law Related Education	229,290	0.2	236,172	0.2
Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission	201,528	0.1	336,770	0.2
SUPREME COURT TOTAL	\$ 34,099,995	25.2	\$ 39,356,273	27.0
OHIO JUDICIARY/ SUPREME COURT TOTAL	\$135,304,425	100.0	\$145,796,243	100.0

**JUDICIARY/SUPREME COURT
FISCAL YEAR 2008 TOTAL EXPENDITURES
\$135,304,425**



**SUPREME COURT
FISCAL YEAR 2008 TOTAL EXPENDITURES
\$34,099,995**



Information
Technology
Division

OFFICE OF
INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY

Robert D. Stuart

Director

OFFICE OF NETWORK
& TECHNOLOGY
RESOURCES

David Saffle

Director



The Information Technology Division includes the Office of Information Technology, which is the lead office, the Office of Network & Technology Resources and the Technology Services Section.

The Information Technology Division is responsible for the operation of the Court's information technology systems and processes, including the development and maintenance of the Court's computer networks, databases, software programs, copiers, telephones, and audiovisual technologies, as well as designing and implementing strategic and tactical acquisition plans for the purchase of technology resources. Further, the division provides guidance to other courts on technology-related matters, and facilitates the development of statewide information technology standards for the courts of Ohio.

OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Office of Information Technology primarily is responsible for developing, implementing and maintaining the various information systems and applications used by the Court and its affiliated offices.

The office also is responsible for the development and implementation of the Ohio Courts Network (OCN), which, when completed, will link all Ohio courts with justice-system partners, including the Attorney General's Office, Bureau of Motor Vehicles and the Ohio State Highway Patrol, to name a few.

The development of OCN proceeded on time during 2008. Project highlights from the year include:

- Completion of contracts with all remaining major case-management-system vendors to develop OCN connectivity to their products. The signed contracts represent more than 90 percent of Ohio courts to be connected to OCN in the future.
- Completion of the memorandum of understanding with the Attorney General's Office to connect OCN to the Bureau of Criminal Information & Investigation Computerized Criminal History database. The office completed the technical connections and began testing the data queries.
- Implementation of a site-to-site virtual private network with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION 2008 STAFF

Deborah S. Boyd
John I. Crossman
Jacob M. Delgado
Mark Dutton
Chere' E. Evans
Kristina M. Halter
James A. Homer
John Hopper
Jeremy M. Johnson
Alex Kail
Anthony J. Kenzie
Loren J. McCauley
Edward L. McNachtan
Jennifer M. Middeler
Matthew T. Miller
Brandee E. Preston
Megan M. Real
Kristina L. Rotach
David Saffle
Robert D. Stuart
Jason C. Uber
Sowjanya Valluri



- Installation of a digital certificate program using the Microsoft digital certificate system to validate a user is on a court-managed computer.
- Completion of the OCN pilot phase and implementation of the OCN system in July 2008.
- Negotiation of a contract with OCN partner vendors, Unisys Corp and Metatomix, to continue the rollout of OCN statewide.
- Training of about 600 users on OCN throughout the year.
- Installation of a trouble-ticketing system for the OCN help desk, which allows the help desk staff to better track calls and other requests.

With the end of the OCN pilot phase in 2008, the Court's Information Technology staff began connecting OCN to court case-management systems across the state. As of January 2009, about 10 courts were in full production, and another 35 to 40 courts were scheduled for connectivity in early 2009. The OCN staff intends to have 80 percent of the state's court cases loaded into OCN by the end of 2009.

More than 220 courts signed memoranda of understanding with the Supreme Court in 2008 and more than 1,500 users were granted access to OCN.

Aside from OCN development, Information Technology staff dedicated numerous resources to serving Supreme Court staff on other projects. Highlights include:

- Establishment of virtual server environments in the OCN and Supreme Court networks to maximize the use of the Court's servers and to increase data capacity.
- Completion of the online version of the biennial technology survey of Ohio courts.
- Development of a new bar admissions system to manage the bar admissions application and tracking process.
- Development of a judges tracking system to automate tracking of the judgeships and judges of the state.
- Addition of two appellate courts to the Appeals Court Case Management system.



- Installation of a new spam e-mail filter for the Court, which significantly reduced the amount of spam received. As an example, during the month of June, the Court received 2,382,902 e-mails and 2,327,821, or 98 percent, were blocked.
- Implementation of a statistics reporting and tracking system for reporting Court case statistics and caseload.
- Completion of the *Lawyer to Lawyer* mentoring online registration application.
- Installation of 2008 Hypervisor, Microsoft's newest virtual server software, which offers significant enhancements over its previous virtual server technology. This effort saved resources so the Court can fully use its hardware assets.
- Purchase of blade servers, which are more cost-efficient, smaller and lower power consumers than traditional box-based servers.
- Completion of a CLE application revision to accommodate rule changes for new attorneys and attorney sanctions.
- Modification of the case management system in the Office of the Clerk to accept credit card payments.
- Upgrade and/or replacement of outdated or no-longer-supported personal computers and servers in the Court's network.

OFFICE OF NETWORK & TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

The Office of Network & Technology Resources manages the Court's servers, desktop computers, laptop computers, computer network, network security, help desk, IT training classes, off-the-shelf software implementation, copiers, IT purchasing, audiovisual system, teleconferencing systems and telecommunications (voice, data, video) functions.

During 2008, the Office of Network & Technology Resources and the Judicial College collaborated to implement a service enabling electronic learning and collaboration over the Internet. Participants can interact in real-time using different multi-media formats, in either large or small groups, by accessing the Internet from their individual desktop computers.



**COMMISSION ON
TECHNOLOGY
& THE COURTS**

Robert D. Stuart, secretary

Lee Baker
David S. Bloomfield Jr.
Hon. Gary Byers, chair
Rockne Clarke
Lisa Wu Fate
Hon. Dan Favreau
Martin Frantz
Phil Giavasis
Hon. Cheryl Grant
Hon. Charles Hague
Charles Lawrie
Hon. Julie Lynch
Christian Moeller
Hon. Richard Parrott
Hon. Mike Powell
Hon. Jack Puffenberger
Michael P. Randle
Hon. Lynn Slaby
Hon. James F. Stevenson
Kenneth R. Teleis
W. James Walsh
Hon. Timothy Williams
Hon. John Wise

TECHNOLOGY SERVICES SECTION

The Technology Services Section provides project support for the OCN project and assists other courts in the state with technology-related decisions and projects, such as case-management system implementation and equipment purchases. This group also supports the Commission on Technology & the Courts in its efforts.

Commission on Technology & the Courts

The Commission on Technology & the Courts held its first meeting in fall 2008. The commission's primary responsibilities are to foster awareness of technology issues affecting Ohio courts and to provide input on the development, governance and use of the OCN.

The commission replaces the Advisory Committee on Technology & the Courts, which was in existence for several years.



TECHNOLOGY & THE COURTS 2008 SURVEY

Every two years the Supreme Court's Information Technology staff surveys Ohio courts to learn about the technology used throughout Ohio, as well as how the Supreme Court can help courts improve their technology.

The Technology & the Courts 2008 Survey showed that courts found several Supreme Court services to be of value to the trial and appellate courts in their use and management of technology.

For example, consultation services, especially in the areas of disaster recovery planning, case management system upgrades and document imaging systems, were noted most often as valuable resources offered by the Supreme Court.

Other Court services noted to be valuable to Ohio courts included:

- Sharing of standards and guidelines
- Development of OCN
- Education and advice on technology
- Information on vendors and software used by Ohio courts
- Facilitation of networking and collaboration with other courts
- Training
- Supreme Court Web site
- Appellate Case Management System.

Information for the 2008 survey was based on responses received from Ohio's 372 trial-level courts, the 12 district courts of appeals and the Supreme Court. Complete survey results are available at supremecourt.ohio.gov.



Facilities
Management
Division

OFFICE OF FACILITIES
MANAGEMENT

OFFICE OF COURT
SECURITY

James P. Cappelli
Director



The Facilities Management Division ensures the efficient and secure operation of the Ohio Judicial Center. The division provides building management services to the employees of the Supreme Court and building tenants, ensures the safety and comfort of guests of the Ohio Judicial Center and offers security assessments and assistance to Ohio courts.

OFFICE OF FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

During 2008, the Facilities Management staff worked with architects Schooley Caldwell Associates to complete a comprehensive inspection of the Ohio Judicial Center exterior as required by Columbus city code.

Staff also worked closely with contractors responsible for the city's Civic Center Drive construction project to minimize disruption of Court activities. Twice during fall 2008, contractor errors caused Civic Center Drive gas-line ruptures, on Oct. 2 and again on Dec. 4. In each instance, Facilities Management staff oversaw the safe and prompt evacuation of the Ohio Judicial Center, as well as the restoration of services to the building.

MAINTENANCE

The Maintenance Work Group supports the Ohio Judicial Center's basic infrastructure, as well as numerous other functioning systems throughout the building. The work group supports all divisions and tenants through daily computerized work-order requests. One significant request during 2008 was for the installation of fine art throughout the building. Maintenance staff also help maintain adequate lighting and properly functioning equipment on a regular basis.

The Maintenance staff maintain a computerized database on all mandatory inspections required by either the state or city building code. Mandatory inspections include elevator, backflow, generator, and fire alarm pump and extinguishers. The staff also oversee all construction projects, and the repair or replacement of outdated parts. Significant modifications to the Ohio Judicial Center also are the responsibility of this group.

During 2008, the Maintenance work group greatly enhanced its staff training. All members of the Maintenance Work Group received training during the year, including instruction on building automation systems, which provides staff mechanics with a better understanding of systems in use at the Ohio Judicial Center. Maintenance helpers and assistants also were

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT DIVISION 2008 STAFF

Benjamin M. Archibald
Betty M. Barringer
Robert J. Brown
Thomas J. Brown
Kenton Butcher
James P. Cappelli
Timothy J. Carter
Samuel Cicchino
James R. Cohagan
William B. Crawford
Roger D. Eden II
Ryan J. Fahle
Nelson R. Frantz
Anthony S. Harrington
Mary J. Harrison
Jane C. Holmes
Gregory Hutchins
Anthony T. Joyce
Stanley L. Landrum
Michael J. Lapaugh
Allegra S. Lewis
Michael Lee Mason
Roscoe S. Mayes
Steven L. Neal
Gerald F. Norris
Ian N. Palmer
Aritha L. Peaks
Joey L. Perkins
Michael A. Robison II
James J. Rose
Harold F. Rutherford
Benny J. Sawyer
David M. Short
George E. Smith
Robin H. Smith
Linda F. Sykes
Stephanie L. Tansill
Curtis L. Tatum
Jason L. Thomas
Richard L. Wardell
Vikkie L. Wilson



trained on electrical safety systems and working with live circuits. Maintenance Manager Robin Smith went to Chicago for Aerial Work Platform Training to become a certified trainer. He now can train any Facilities Management employee who uses aerial work platform lifts.

HOUSEKEEPING & GROUNDS

The Housekeeping & Grounds Work Group maintains the cleanliness and appearance of the Ohio Judicial Center's grounds, secured office areas and the Courtroom. In 2008, the Housekeeping & Grounds staff began using green cleaning chemicals, which use environmentally friendly ingredients and provide a healthier work environment for staff and visitors.

MAIL CENTER

During 2008, the Mail Center staff processed 336,173 pieces of mail bound for the U.S. Postal Service. Including interoffice, express and other mail, staff processed more than 600,000 pieces of mail. Taking advantage of lower presort rates on 169,748 pieces, the Court saved \$11,797 in postage expenses.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

The Meetings & Events Work Group schedules Ohio Judicial Center conference rooms, plans special functions and supports other events hosted in the Ohio Judicial Center. The group also lends assistance for off-site meetings, conferences and seminars on an as-needed basis. Meetings & Events staff set up the Courtroom, Justices' robing room, deliberation room and attorney waiting rooms when the Supreme Court is in session.

In 2008, the group set up 1,241 meetings and events, hosting about 20,371 participants. Meetings and conferences supported by this group included functions for professional organizations in the legal and judicial community, the arts, and historical and educational groups. Groups using the Ohio Judicial Center for events included the American Bar Association, Ohio State Bar Foundation, Ohio State Bar Association, Columbus Bar Association, Akron Bar Association, Ohio Association of Magistrates and Ohio Association for Court Administration. The staff also hosted seminars and moot court for the Ohio Attorney General's Office. The Ohio Legal Aid Foundation held its quarterly board meeting in the building, and the Columbus Historical Society hosted a book signing and reception. The



Capital University Law School and The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law held several events at the Ohio Judicial Center during the year as well.

The Meetings & Events Group in 2008 also supported conferences and events for the Ohio Center for Law Related Education Government in Action program. Other special events included a visit by Ukrainian judges and judicial delegates, and a delegation from Azerbaijan. State Senator Kevin Coughlin hosted a group of international delegates for a tour and luncheon. Other visiting organizations included the Ohio Jail Advisory Board, the Shirley Chisholm Girls in Government program, the Judicial-Legislative Exchange program and the Corporation for Supportive Housing. A mock trial for the Law & Leadership Summer Institute and the Advanced Science and Technology Resource Center program dinner event also took place at the Ohio Judicial Center in 2008.

The Meetings & Events staff also assisted with the bar examinations and admissions ceremonies, as well as special events for employees throughout the year.

OFFICE OF COURT SECURITY

The Office of Court Security provides physical and personnel security at the Ohio Judicial Center, security consulting services for judges throughout Ohio and physical security assessments for local courts.

The Office of Court Security is responsible for the security of the Ohio Judicial Center and the safety of all staff and visitors. In 2008, Court security officers conducted more than 68,000 security screenings of visitors during business hours, as well as after-hours events. All Court security officers are certified in first aid and two officers are certified as first responders. Security officers also provide training to local courts on security screening equipment (X-ray equipment and magnetometers), as well as Taser certification.

The Supreme Court marshal performs ceremonial duties within the Courtroom and provides personal protection to the Justices while they are conducting official business within the state. As manager of the Court's Inappropriate Communications program, the marshal is responsible for all communication requiring monitoring or coordination with federal or other state offices.



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON COURT SECURITY
& EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS**

James P. Cappelli, staff liaison

Frederick D. Benton Jr.
Walter Brown
Tom Chidester
Donald W. Colby
Kurt Douglass
James W. Dwertman
Peter J. Elliott
Ron Ferrell
Nancy McClatchy
Hon. Matthew W. McFarland
Hon. Deborah J. Nicastro
Justice Maureen O'Connor,
chair
Hon. Michael E. Powell
Hon. Dana S. Preisse
Ken Roll
George A. Romanoski
Dottie Tuttle
James M. Wahlrab

Advisory Committee on Court Security & Emergency Preparedness

The Supreme Court's Advisory Committee on Court Security & Emergency Preparedness provides ongoing advice to the Chief Justice on issues of security and safety in courts and courthouses throughout the state. Chaired by Justice O'Connor, the advisory committee also assists in the development of emergency preparedness and continuity of operations plans by courts, as well as the promulgation of statewide standards related to these issues.

During 2008, the committee worked with the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy to overhaul its training for bailiff certification and the requirements for firearms re-qualification. The committee also initiated the Court's Inappropriate Communications program and updated Appendix C of the Rules of Superintendence for Ohio Courts, which addresses court security standards.





In January 2008, the Supreme Court of Ohio hosted court personnel, law enforcement officers and others who oversee security for courts across Ohio. The *High Threat & High Profile Trials* seminar drew more than 100 participants from Ohio and California to the Ohio Judicial Center.

“Ensuring safe access to our legal system is very important, and the responsibility for security falls to all of us,” Chief Justice Moyer said in opening remarks. “When a crisis occurs, a court security plan makes a critical difference.”

At the seminar, presented by the Supreme Court Office of Court Security, participants were provided with details on planning for trials that pose a high security risk. Speakers included Allen Smith, Ph.D., associate professor of criminal justice at Tiffin University.

“A trial that draws a lot of attention can become emotional and create serious security problems for the court,” Smith said. “Pre-planning with clear policies and procedures can make all the difference for the safety of the judge, the jury and others in the courtroom.”

Ensuring safe access to our legal system is very important, and the responsibility for security falls to all of us ... When a crisis occurs, a court security plan makes a critical difference.

— Chief Justice
Thomas J. Moyer



Affiliated Offices

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

Jonathan E. Coughlan
Disciplinary Counsel

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON GRIEVANCES & DISCIPLINE

Jonathan W. Marshall
Secretary

CLIENTS' SECURITY FUND

Janet Green Marbley
Administrator

OHIO CRIMINAL SENTENCING COMMISSION

David J. Diroll
Executive Director



The Ohio Constitution gives the Supreme Court of Ohio responsibility to oversee the practice of law in the state. To fulfill these duties, the Court developed one of the most comprehensive disciplinary systems of any state in the nation by establishing three offices — Office of Disciplinary Counsel, Board of Commissioners on Grievances & Discipline, and the Clients' Security Fund — to exercise quasi-independent authority to assist the Court.

In addition, Chief Justice Moyer chairs the Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission, which was created by statute in 1990. The commission reviews Ohio's sentencing statutes and patterns, and recommends necessary statutory changes.

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

The Office of Disciplinary Counsel is authorized to investigate allegations and initiate complaints concerning ethical misconduct and/or mental illness of judges or attorneys under the Code of Professional Responsibility, the Rules of Professional Conduct, the Code of Judicial Conduct, and rules governing the Unauthorized Practice of Law, pursuant to the Supreme Court Rules for the Government of the Bar and the Government of the Judiciary. The current disciplinary counsel staff includes 10 attorneys, one administrative officer, one administrative assistant, two full-time and one part-time legal research analyst/paralegals, two full-time and one part-time investigators, four legal secretaries, one receptionist and one clerical support person.

During 2008, the Office of Disciplinary Counsel received 3,395 matters for consideration, including 2,385 grievances filed against attorneys and 556 grievances filed against judges. Of those, 1,680 were dismissed upon initial review and 1,260 were opened for investigation.

The office also received 291 appeals of grievances previously dismissed by local bar association certified grievance committees, 91 allegations of the unauthorized practice of law and four reciprocal discipline cases (cases involving licensed Ohio attorneys disciplined in other jurisdictions). No cases of failure to maintain child support were reported to the office in 2008. Additionally, 29 resignation applications were received for review, and 19 resignation cases were closed in 2008.

During the year, disciplinary counsel attorneys appeared in 33 hearings before panels of the Board of Commissioners on Grievances & Discipline and one hearing before the Board on the Unauthorized Practice of Law. They also participated in 11 Supreme Court oral arguments.

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL 2008 STAFF

Paula J. Adams
Stacy Beckman
Robert R. Berger
Lori J. Brown
Joseph M. Caligiuri
Carol A. Costa
Jonathan E. Coughlan
Cheryl A. Dean
Brenda M. English
Linda S. Hardesty-Fish
Heather L. Hissom
Laura K. Johnston
Joel S. Kent
Philip A. King
Michael J. Kozanecki
Randy T. McGough
Christine McKrimmon
James R. McMahon
Rae Jeanne Nicholas
Karen H. Osmond
Heath A. Rambo
Mischelle L. Russell
Shannon B. Scheid
Holly A. Smith
Amy C. Stone

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON GRIEVANCES & DISCIPLINE 2008 STAFF

Jayme L. Barlow
Anne M. Butcher
Ruth B. Dangel
Faith Long
Jonathan W. Marshall
Michele L. Pennington
Jennifer Routte

CLIENTS' SECURITY FUND 2008 STAFF

Meletha Dawson
Pamela Leslie
Janet Green Marbley
Abigail L. Minnix

CRIMINAL SENTENCING COMMISSION 2008 STAFF

David J. Diroll
Cynthia J. Ward
Shawn P. Welch



The office conducted its annual fall bar counsel seminar in October 2008, welcoming 34 attendees, primarily representing the certified grievance committees of local bar associations across Ohio.

In 2008, Jonathan E. Coughlan continued to serve as vice-president to the board of directors of the Association of Judicial Disciplinary Counsel. He also served on the Supreme Court Task Force on the Code of Judicial Conduct.

Further, Amy C. Stone served as chair of the Unauthorized Practice of Law Central Registry Work Group, sponsored by the Supreme Court Board on the Unauthorized Practice of Law. Robert R. Berger served as a member of the Ohio State Bar Association Special Committee to Review Ohio Rules of Professional Conduct Rule 1.15(d)(e).

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON GRIEVANCES & DISCIPLINE

The Board of Commissioners on Grievances & Discipline is established by Gov. Bar R. V and is charged with administering, interpreting and enforcing the rule allowing lawyer and judge discipline for ethical misconduct.

The board also serves, according to state law, as the ethics commission for the filing of more than 1,800 financial disclosure statements required of Ohio judges, judicial candidates and magistrates. The board, pursuant to Gov. Bar R.V(2)(C) is given authority to issue informal, nonbinding ethical advisory opinions.

In 2008, the board added four new members appointed by the Supreme Court of Ohio. The board met on eight days on a bimonthly basis and received 97 formal complaints, including petitions for reinstatement, filed by the Office of Disciplinary Counsel and the certified grievance committees of local bar associations.

The board held 83 hearings, certified 91 matters to the Supreme Court and disposed of 108 cases. In addition, the board received seven judicial campaign grievances and heard one election-related judicial campaign complaint filed under Gov. Jud. R. II(5). Seven Ohio lawyers resigned from the practice of law with discipline pending as a result of disciplinary investigations and the filing of formal complaints. There were 104 matters pending on the board's docket at the end of the year. The 91 disciplinary cases certified to the Supreme Court was the highest number in the board's history.



During 2008, seven present or former board members and the secretary continued the work of the statewide task force appointed by Chief Justice Moyer to study the new ABA Code of Judicial Conduct. The task force met four times during 2008 under the direction of its chair, board member Judge Thomas F. Bryant. The task force recommended a revised Code of Judicial Conduct to the Supreme Court at the end of November 2008, and in December, the Supreme Court adopted a new code, effective March 1, 2009. The board also assisted the Court in reviewing and commenting on possible amendments to Gov. Bar R. V.

The board participated in a statewide task force convened by the Chief Justice and the Ohio secretary of state to develop a statewide voter information guide for Ohio's judicial candidates for the general election in November 2008. The judicial candidates' guide was made available online for voters.

The board's staff again assisted the certified grievance committees in documenting requests for reimbursement of all disciplinary-related expenses, both on a quarterly and annual basis.

Further, the board, in conjunction with the University of Akron School of Law and the Ohio State Bar Association, sponsored two statewide disciplinary seminars for certified grievance committees and interested lawyers. The board's legal staff also taught five courses on campaign law and ethics required of Ohio judicial candidates under Canon 7 and three courses for attorneys in public practice.

The board in 2008 participated in 32 continuing legal education programs for board members, Ohio justices and judges, their spouses, foreign judges, lawyers, judicial candidates, public employees, court personnel and law students.

Additionally, the board received 39 requests for advisory opinions and issued seven opinions on ethical questions arising under the Rules of Professional Conduct, Code of Judicial Conduct, Rules for the Government of the Bar, Rules for the Government of the Judiciary and Ohio ethics law.

The board continued to render advisory opinions on the application of the recent Ohio Rules of Professional Conduct. Two board opinions addressed conflict-of-interest issues presented by Prof. Cond. Rule 1.7. Further, Adv. Op. 2008-7 provides guidance to lawyers and law firms on the employment of disqualified or suspended lawyers in a law firm setting. The board has issued 332 advisory opinions since it was given such authority in 1987. All advisory opinions are available on the Supreme Court Web site. The ABA/BNA *Lawyer's Manual on*

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON GRIEVANCES & DISCIPLINE

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secretary

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Robert V. Housel Jr.
Lynn B. Jacobs
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Nancy D. Moore
William J. Novak
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Master Commissioners

Bernard K. Bauer
Hon. W. Scott Gwin
Jeffrey T. Heintz
Hon. John R. Milligan
Hon. John Petzold
Robin G. Weaver
Hon. Harry White



Professional Conduct reported and discussed three of the board's advisory opinions.

In addition to advisory opinions, Ruth B. Dangel, staff counsel, issued 16 staff letters addressing various ethical issues during the year. The board's legal staff responded to more than 1,800 telephone inquiries from judges, lawyers, reporters and members of the public regarding ethics, lawyer discipline and judicial-campaign conduct issues.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF THE CLIENTS' SECURITY
FUND**

Luis M. Alcalde, chair
Hon. Patricia Blackmon
Kenneth R. Donchatz
Hon. James E. Green
Edward G. Hack
Jerome Phillips
Clifton L. Spinner

CLIENTS' SECURITY FUND

The Clients' Security Fund was established in 1985 by the Supreme Court to reimburse clients who lose money or property as a result of the dishonest conduct of an Ohio attorney. The fund receives its funding from attorney-registration fees paid by licensed Ohio attorneys.

The Court appoints a seven-member board of commissioners, which meets in March, June, September and December, to determine the eligibility of claims for reimbursement.

Claims are initiated by the completion of an application for reimbursement. The allegations contained in the applications are investigated first by the Clients' Security Fund staff.

To be eligible for reimbursement from the Clients' Security Fund, a claimant must meet the requirements set forth in Gov. Bar R. VIII. The fund does not reimburse losses resulting from negligence, malpractice or fee disputes.

During fiscal year 2008, the Clients' Security Fund received 288 applications for reimbursement. In all, 92 applications were dismissed. The board of commissioners reviewed 145 applications and determined 117 claims were eligible for reimbursement and 27 claims were ineligible. The board reimbursed 117 eligible claimants \$743,932. Forty-seven attorneys were found to have engaged in dishonest conduct resulting in losses of money or property to their clients.

During 2008, the board of commissioners and the Commission on Professionalism obtained Supreme Court approval to publish for public comment a draft of *A Consumer's Practical Guide to Managing a Relationship with a Lawyer*. Once published, the guide will be distributed statewide to help the public understand the lawyer-client relationship.



OHIO CRIMINAL SENTENCING COMMISSION

The Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission was created by statute in 1990. Chaired by Chief Justice Moyer, the commission reviews Ohio's sentencing statutes and sentencing patterns, and recommends necessary statutory changes. The commission has 31 members, 10 of whom are judges appointed by the Chief Justice.

During 2008, the Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission and its Criminal Sentencing Advisory Committee continued to meet and work in tandem on proposals for the General Assembly and other criminal sentencing matters. Major topics included simplifying the felony and misdemeanor sentencing statutes, culpable mental states after the Court's decisions in the *State v. Colon* cases, and a survey of judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys regarding felony sentencing laws.

The commission also continued a major project, begun in 2007, of streamlining the criminal code. The goal is to make the code more workable for criminal justice practitioners — including judges, prosecutors and defenders — and to produce a code that is easily understood by the defendants and victims directly affected by it.

In light of significant changes to the felony sentencing statutes originally adopted at the commission's behest in 1996, the commission also surveyed common pleas judges, prosecuting attorneys and the defense bar to gauge the viability of those statutes. The results will be reported to the General Assembly early in 2009.

Further, the staff continued in 2008 to provide training materials for the commission's comprehensive 2007 rewrite of Ohio laws governing the forfeiture of assets linked to racketeering, drug offenses and gang activity. The commission continued to monitor and discuss the state's prison crowding situation as well.

OHIO CRIMINAL SENTENCING COMMISSION

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VISITING JUDGES

According to the Ohio Constitution, in the event of a recusal by a Justice from a pending case, the Chief Justice can select any of 68 sitting Ohio appellate court judges to sit temporarily on the Supreme Court.

The Court thanks the court of appeals judges who served as visiting judges for Supreme Court oral arguments in 2008.



Hon. Mike Fain
2nd District
Case nos. 2007-0595
& 2007-0651
State v. Cabrales
Jan. 8



Hon. Donna J. Carr
9th District
Case nos. 2007-0291
& 2007-0472
State v. D.H.
Jan. 9



Hon. Anthony O. Calabrese Jr.
8th District
Case No. 2007-1302
State v. Mays
May 6



Hon. Mary J. Boyle
8th District
Case No. 2007-1455
Beneficial Ohio v. Ellis
May 21



Hon. John R. Willamowski
3rd District
Case No. 2007-1703
State v. Kalish
May 21



Hon. Penelope R. Cunningham
1st District
Case Nos. 2007-1760
& 2007-1762
Lager v. Miller-Gonzalez
June 3



Hon. Lynn C. Slaby
9th District
Case Nos. 2007-1760
& 2007-1762
Lager v. Miller-Gonzalez
June 3



Hon. Mary E. Donovan
2nd District
Case No. 2007-1832
Roe v. Planned Parenthood
Oct. 7



Hon. Patrick Dinkelacker
1st District
Case No. 2007-2443
State v. Pasqualone
Oct. 8



Hon. Mary Jane Trapp
11th District
Case No. 2008-0331
State v. Harrison
Nov. 19

Former Supreme Court of Ohio Justice **Blanche Krupansky**, 82, the second woman to serve on Ohio's high court, died April 14, 2008.

Appointed by then-Gov. James A. Rhodes on Aug. 28, 1981, Krupansky filled the unexpired term of Justice Paul W. Brown, who resigned from the Supreme Court earlier in the month.

"Justice Krupansky made valuable contributions to both the legal profession and the courts," Chief Justice Moyer said. "As the only woman in her law class, she helped clear a path for the thousands of women who would become attorneys in Ohio. Besides serving as a trailblazer, she was the consummate judge, having served at all levels of the Ohio judiciary. Her contributions will long be remembered."

Krupansky's experience as a jurist also included service on the Cleveland Municipal Court, the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas and the 8th District Court of Appeals.

Blanche Ethel Krupansky was born in Cleveland to Frank and Ann Krupansky on Dec. 10, 1925. Following her education in Cleveland public schools, she graduated from Flora Stone Mather College in Cleveland in 1947 and from Case Western Reserve University Law School in 1948. She began private practice in 1949, after her admission to the Ohio bar. Later, she served as an assistant attorney general during the terms of Ohio Attorney General C. William O'Neill, and was appointed assistant chief counsel to the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation.

Krupansky began her judicial career on the city of Cleveland Municipal Court, serving from 1961 to 1969. She was elected to her first term on the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas in November 1968 and re-elected in 1974. In November 1976, she defeated Hugh Corrigan for a seat on the 8th District Court of Appeals.

After losing her November 1982 Supreme Court re-election bid, Krupansky returned to the 8th District, where she was appointed to a vacant seat by Gov. Rhodes. Krupansky campaigned successfully for election to a full six-year term in November 1988 and retired from the appeals court in 1995.

Affairs of the heart and matters of the court intertwined when Krupansky married fellow attorney Frank W. Vargo on April 30, 1960. The couple met while serving as cocounsel on a case in Cleveland.

Krupansky was selected in 1981 as a member of the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame and received numerous other awards and honoraria. Her younger brother, Robert, also pursued a legal and judicial career, serving as judge on the Federal District Court for Northern Ohio and on the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati.

IN MEMORIAM



Justice Blanche Krupansky served on the Supreme Court of Ohio from Sept. 10, 1981, to Jan. 10, 1983. (Photo: Craig Holman, *The Columbus Dispatch*.)

PHOTOS

- PAGE 2** Chief Justice Thomas J. Moyer at his writing desk.
- PAGE 11** The Chief Justice and Justices in their Robing Room.
- PAGE 25** Administrative Director Steven C. Hollon testifies before a Finance & Appropriations subcommittee of the Ohio House of Representatives.
- PAGE 28** Joanne Hawk, a volunteer in the Visitor Education Center, leads a group of school children through an exhibit.
- PAGE 36** Chief Deputy Clerk Amy L. Reitz (*far left*) checks in an attorney for oral argument before the Supreme Court.
- PAGE 48** Law Library employees Mary Fry (*left*) and Lisa Lynch (*right*) confer at the circulation desk, while colleague Dusty Smeller (*center*) assists a patron on the telephone.
- PAGE 52** Attorneys at the November swearing-in ceremony take their oath of office.
- PAGE 58** Steven W. Hanson, manager of the Children, Families & the Courts Section (*center*), leads a meeting to plan the Ohio Summit on Children.
- PAGE 72** The Office of Human Resources offers numerous employee training events, like the one pictured, for Supreme Court and affiliated office staff throughout each year.
- PAGE 78** Information Technology staff offer OCN training in August.
- PAGE 84** Timothy Carter (*left*) and Frank Rutherford (*right*) of the Maintenance Work Group remove a desk from an office.
- PAGE 90** Members of the Board of Commissioners on Grievances & Discipline conduct a hearing at the Ohio Judicial Center.







THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO

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