



What's Happening at the Bar?

Updates from the CEO

Promoting justice and advancing the legal profession.

While we are officially halfway through the calendar year (can you believe it?) here at the Ohio Bar, we're gearing up to ring in a brand new bar year! Beginning July 1, we're excited to welcome new and continuing leaders who will be taking up their new titles in the bar association. From new committee and section chairs to advisory board members (not to mention our incoming president, Dan Griffith, who you can get to know on pg. 10), our leaders are ready to hit the ground running for the 2024-2025 bar year. As many of you know, we kick off our transition season at the Ohio Bar Annual Meeting where, among other things, our members help shape the association's public policy priorities and

celebrate excellence in the profession. And boy, did this year's meeting deliver. Thank you to all who attended and made it a fun and productive day. If you missed it, read on to learn about all that we accomplished. I've said it before and I'll say it again, our members make this the best bar association in the country. I can't thank all of you enough for your continued support and engagement in our collective efforts to promote justice and advance the legal profession.

-Mary Amos Augsburger
Ohio Bar CEO



Board of Governors

Here are the actions taken by the Ohio Bar Board of Governors at their spring meeting:

- Accepted the report of the Rural Practice Gap Task Force (learn more in the annual meeting policy recap ahead).
- Updated the association's budget for Fiscal Year 2024 to include building improvements.
- Accepted a new reserves policy and amended the bar's investment policy to better serve the needs of the association.

Thank you to our outgoing board members for their service!



Judge Dean Wilson
Immediate Past President



Bryan C. Conaway
District 15 Governor



Magistrate Kathleen Lenski
District 2 Governor



Amy B. Ikerd
District 16 Governor



Frederick C. Fisher, Jr.
District 8 Governor



Michael E. Flowers
At-Large Governor



Christopher L. Brown
District 10 Governor



Welcome New and Re-Elected Board Members

The following attorneys will begin their three-year terms on the Ohio Bar Board of Governors on July 1, 2024.



Judge Gary Carter
District 2 Governor



Richard W. Clagg
District 8 Governor



Maura E. Scanlon
District 11 Governor



**Howard Wernow
(re-elected)**
District 14 Governor



Kyle Bickford
District 15 Governor



Zachary Ferrall
District 16 Governor



Marlon A. Primes
At-Large Appointee



Andrew P. Lycans
Filling District 10 vacancy
Andy's term will run through
June 30, 2026.

Your 2024-2025 Bar Year Officers:



Dan Griffith
President



Michelle Kranz
Immediate Past-President



William Chris
President-Elect



Jan Allen Baughman
President-Elect Designee



Mary Amos Augsburger
CEO & Corporate Secretary



We Walked, Ran and Biked for Mental Wellness



The third annual Ohio Bar 25 Mile Challenge this May was a success! Thank you to everyone who put their best foot (or pedal) forward to help raise funds for the Ohio Lawyers Assistance Program and the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Ohio – and gained some valuable endorphins while they were at it.

Together, we logged more than 13,000 miles! Whether you went alone, with your family or colleagues, we couldn't have asked for better company.



Up Next From the Ohio Bar Wellness Advisory Board

Ready to take a rest and dive into a good book? Incorporate more well-being into your life by joining our Wellness Advisory Board Book Club! The next book club pick is "Big Magic" by Elizabeth Gilbert. Read along and discuss with fellow bar members as you learn how to uncover your creative nature. Join the club at ohiobar.org/wellness-book-club.



2024 Annual Meeting Policy Recap

The Ohio Bar returned to Capitol Square for our 2024 Annual Meeting of Members this spring. At the meeting, bar members had the chance to weigh in on the direction of the association and help set the bar's public policy agenda for the year to come. This year, the Ohio Bar Council of Delegates approved nine legislative proposals from Ohio Bar committees and sections, sending them on to become priorities for the association as we lobby to improve the law at the Ohio Statehouse.



The Council of Delegates approved five proposals from the Ohio Bar Estate Planning, Trust and Probate Law Section. Here is what each one would do:

1. Amend the Fiduciary Claims Statute to clarify that a fiduciary, executor or administrator is not exempt from the requirements of the general claims' statute, R.C. §2117.06.
2. Amend Ohio law to provide that actions under the Ohio Uniform Fraudulent Transfer Act occasioned by transfers of property at a decedent's death outside of probate administration may only prevail

if the transfer was made with an actual intent to hinder, delay or defraud a creditor and, in such case, to limit the time period during which such an action may be brought to six months after the decedent's death.

3. Enact a new Chapter 5818 to supplement R.C. §5808.08 to provide that a party that has the power to direct ("trust protector") a trustee ("directed trustee"), by default, serves in a fiduciary capacity and is held to the same standard as a trustee in a like position under like circumstances. If the trust instrument provides that the trust protector serves

in a non-fiduciary capacity, the trust protector will be liable for willful misconduct to protect a trust beneficiary.

4. Enact a new R.C. §5808.161 to provide an Ohio trustee with a discretionary power to pay a taxing authority directly or reimburse a grantor for income tax owed by the grantor attributable to grantor trust income and amend R.C. §5812.43 to provide that such a disbursement is paid from principal.
5. Amend Sections 1337.42 and 1337.34 of the Ohio Revised Code by incorporating a key sentence from the official comments to the Uniform Power of Attorney Act regarding the mandatory nature of duties imposed upon all agents under powers of attorney governed by Chapter 1337. Amend Sections 1337.42, 1337.52 and 5806.02 to more explicitly state the inability of an agent under a power of attorney to exercise the principal's right to withdraw assets from a revocable trust of which the principal is the settlor without such authorization being granted in both the trust agreement and the power of attorney. And amend Section 1337.36 to grant to courts the same power to award attorney fees in actions involving powers of attorney that they already have in cases involving the administration of trusts.



The council also approved two proposals from the Ohio Bar Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee. They would:

1. Amend R.C. §5901.03 to authorize veteran service commissions to provide direct financial support to veterans treatment courts, including by hiring and compensating individuals at the court who provide outreach.
2. Require all Ohio confinement facilities to identify and verify veterans who are imprisoned.

And lastly, the Council of Delegates voted to adopt the policy recommendations of the **Ohio Bar Rural Practice Gap Task Force**.

Convened by Past President Dean Wilson and chaired by Immediate Past-President Michelle Kranz, the task force was created to review current data and propose potential solutions to address attorney shortages in rural Ohio counties. That data indicated that 82 of Ohio's 88 counties do not have enough attorneys to meet the legal needs of their citizens.

This spring, the task force issued its recommendations.

With the vote of the council, the Ohio Bar advocacy and outreach teams will now be focused on implementing the task force's report. Learn more about the task force and its recommendations in Marisa Myers' Statehouse Connection column on pg. 34.

General Assembly Meeting – Constitutional Amendment

Also at the annual meeting, the Ohio Bar Board of Governors proposed and – and the General Assembly approved – an amendment to the association's constitution that will consolidate association elections.

The President-Elect, as well as the district representatives to the Board of Governors and the Council of Delegates will now all occur in one November online election. This change will streamline the elections process, enhance transparency and encourage member engagement in when it comes to selecting bar leaders.



With Unanimous Consent

We commend and thank 2023-2024 Ohio Bar President Michelle Kranz. She significantly advanced the Ohio Bar's efforts to address the attorney shortage in rural communities, ably led the board by encouraging thoughtful dialogue and debate, strengthened relationships with affiliate organizations, and not to mention, the woman is a whiz when it comes to parliamentary procedure (as anyone who attended the annual meeting will attest)! President Kranz's collaborative and inclusive leadership style will live well beyond her term and has set the stage for another successful 2024-2025 bar year with President Dan Griffith next wielding the gavel.

Thank you, President Kranz!



Thank you to all who joined us at the 2024 Annual Meeting of Members!

This year, the bar's biggest bash of the year was bigger than ever. Over two days, we gathered at iconic locations around Capitol Square to hold our 18 annual district meetings, honor our long-practicing members and recognize excellence in the legal profession. Relive the day with videos and photos at ohiobar.org/annualmeeting.

And learn more about this year's attorney honorees on pg. 26.



Save the date!

2025 Annual Meeting: May 12-13, 2025

More From the Day

The bar held an informative discussion with current and former Ohio attorneys general on civility and how attorneys can work to bolster public trust in our institutions this election year. Read more about the discussion on pg. 24.