

legally SPEAKING

THE STARK COUNTY LAW LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

January 2026

ISSUE 1 | VOLUME 49

Meet Our New Reference Librarian — Steve Shackelford

Steve brings more than twenty years of library experience to the Stark County Law Library, with a background spanning academic, public, and special libraries across the country. He has strong research skills and extensive experience providing reference services to a wide range of patrons, including the public, students, children, and university faculty and staff. He is also well-versed in a broad array of library applications and databases. To help introduce Steve, we've included his responses to a few questions.

What's a fun fact about you that others might not know?

Since 2007, I've resided in seven different states and the District of Columbia. This includes two stints in both Ohio and West Virginia. The other states include Kentucky, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Washington.

Tell us about your favorite book!

I would be unable to distill it down to one single title. Instead, I will say that my favorite contemporary American author is Richard Russo. *Empire Falls*, *Nobody's Fool*, and *Straight Man* are my favorites. Russo has an uncanny ability to believably capture small-town life. *Straight Man* is an excellent satirical look at academia.



Can you share a bit about your career path and what led you to the Law Library?

As the trailing spouse of an academic, nothing explains my career path as succinctly as necessity. As we moved around from place to place, I needed to adapt and be flexible about employment venues. This often meant switching between different types of libraries. When my wife returned to practice of law, she wanted to come home to Northeast Ohio—So here we are!

What's a podcast you've enjoyed recently?

I have been closely following a lawsuit that recently settled involving copyright infringement by Ethan Klein from H3H3Productions against a reaction streamer on Twitch named Kaceytron. There is a whole streaming community built around transformative content as a type of fair use on streaming platforms. I think it is fascinating to watch this stuff play out in real time.

inside this issue

- 2 Explore Public Domain Day
- 2 Celebrate Copyright Law Day
- 3 New Amendments to the Ohio Rules for 2026
- 3 New Ohio Laws for 2026



NOTICE

CLOSED

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

MONDAY, JANUARY
19, 2026



Spending Programs and the New Roberts Court — CLE

The Supreme Court may narrow Congress's spending power, altering the structure and enforcement of federal-state social programs, civil rights, and how states and Congress approach funding and regulation.

When:

Tuesday, January 27, 2026
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Eastern Time

Where:

Zoom

Price:

Free

Register here: <https://case.edu/law/about/events-lectures/spending-programs-and-new-roberts-court-virtual-only>

Explore Public Domain Day

Public Domain Day, celebrated every January 1, marks the moment when a new collection of books, films, music, artwork, and other creative materials officially enter the public domain after their copyrights expire. Once works transition into the public domain, anyone can use, adapt, share, or build upon them without seeking permission or paying licensing fees, greatly enriching cultural access and creative opportunities. Libraries, scholars, and educators often highlight this annual milestone as a reminder of how copyright law shapes the availability of our shared cultural heritage.

For those looking to better understand how copyright terms work, several institutions offer excellent guidance:

Stanford University's resources provide a clear overview of what the public domain encompasses and the types of works that are not protected by copyright. https://fairuse.stanford.edu/overview/public-domain/welcome/#copyright_does_not_protect_certain_works

Cornell University Libraries offer a widely referenced chart that helps users navigate U.S. copyright terms and determine when works pass into the public domain. <https://guides.library.cornell.edu/copyright/publicdomain>

Duke Law School's Center for the Study of the Public Domain further explores these issues and tracks the cultural significance of newly released works. <https://web.law.duke.edu/cspd/>

In 2026, notable additions include major literary works such as William Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying* and Dashiell Hammett's *The Maltese Falcon*. These and many other works joining the public domain open new possibilities for readers, creators, and educators alike.

Read more about what's entering the public domain on January, 1 2026 here: <https://copyrightlately.com/public-domain-2026/>



A Notable Dispute Challenging Copyright Law

OverDrive has sued OpenAI, alleging trademark infringement, unfair competition, and deceptive trade practices over OpenAI's use of the "Sora" name and logo for its AI video-generation app. OverDrive argues that the branding is causing widespread confusion with its own Sora platform, a K–12 ebook and audiobook service launched in 2018, and says this confusion is harming students, educators, and its own reputation.

After months of unsuccessful negotiations and a surge in confusion reported during the AASL conference, OverDrive is seeking both monetary damages and a court order barring OpenAI from using the Sora name or any similar branding. The lawsuit includes examples of customer confusion and negative reviews, while OpenAI has stated it disagrees with the claims.

On December 5, OverDrive asked a federal court to issue an immediate preliminary injunction blocking OpenAI from using the SORA name and icon. OverDrive argues that OpenAI's use of its registered trademarks infringes its intellectual property and creates a serious risk of confusion and harm, especially for children who use OverDrive's platform. The company is seeking to stop OpenAI from using the SORA trademarks while the lawsuit proceeds.

See OverDrive's Complaint here: <https://www.law360.com/articles/2413430/attachments/0>

New Amendments to the Ohio Rules for 2026

- Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio (Case Processing Time Standards Amendments - Forms A, B, D, IJ, and AJ)
- Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio (Sup.R. 39 - Case Time Limits)
- Rules for the Government of the Judiciary of Ohio (Gov.Jud.R. IV - Continuing Legal Education Requirements for Acting Judges)
- Ohio Rules of Professional Conduct (Prof.Cond.R. 8.4 - Misconduct)
- Rules for the Government of the Judiciary of Ohio (Gov.Jud.R. II(3) - Dismissal)

Read more about the changes here: <https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/ruleamendments/archive.aspx>

2026: New Laws Take Effect

A number of new Ohio laws are set to take effect in January, bringing changes to wages, schools, and professional requirements. Ohio's minimum wage will rise on Jan. 1 to \$11 per hour for non-tipped workers and \$5.50 for tipped employees, reflecting the annual inflation-based increase established by a 2006 constitutional amendment. Another major change involves cell phone use in public schools: beginning Jan. 1, all districts must adopt formal, detailed plans banning student cell phone use during the school day, with limited exceptions for health needs and emergencies. Lawmakers say the goal is to reduce cyberbullying, limit distractions, and improve learning environments.

Additional laws also take effect in January. House Bill 57, effective Jan. 19, requires schools that choose to carry overdose-reversal medications like Narcan to create usage plans and train administrators; the bill also clarifies rules around mid-day release for religious instruction. House Bill 144, also effective Jan. 19, updates and streamlines Ohio's voluntary Communication Disability Database to help first responders better understand when communication challenges may arise. Meanwhile, House Bill 248, effective Jan. 1, revises exam and licensure requirements for certified public accountants in an effort to address the state's CPA shortage.



new eBooks

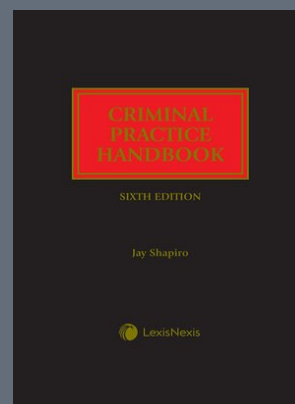
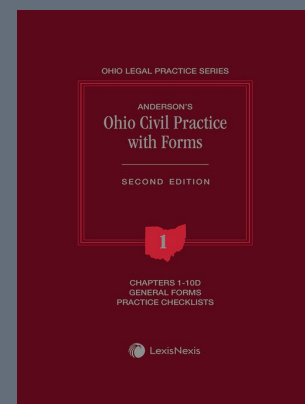
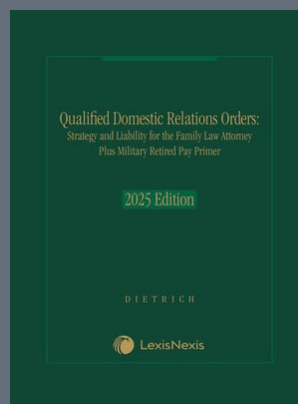
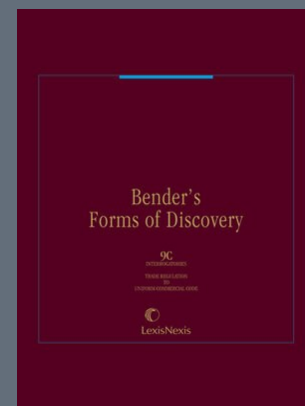
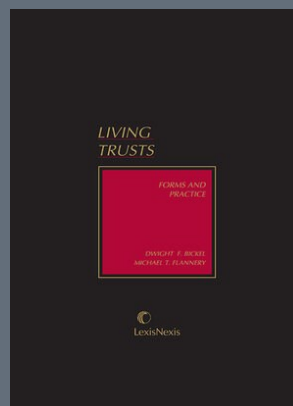
Living Trusts: Forms and Practice
<https://lexisdl.com/library/cocll/title/1000239>

Benders Forms of Discovery
<https://lexisdl.com/library/cocll/title/998918>

Qualified Domestic Relations Orders: Strategy and Liability for the Family Law Attorney
<https://lexisdl.com/library/cocll/title/7145537>

Anderson's Ohio Civil Practice With Forms
<https://lexisdl.com/library/cocll/set/501904>

Criminal Practice Handbook
<https://lexisdl.com/library/cocll/title/5015080>





THE STARK COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

110 Central Plaza South

Suite 401

Canton, OH 44702

Hours: Mon - Fri, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Phone: (330) 451-7380

Fax: (330)-451-7381

Website: www.starkcountyohio.gov/law-library

E-mail: inform@starkcountyohio.gov

[@stark_lib](https://www.facebook.com/StarkLawLib) <https://www.facebook.com/StarkLawLib>

inside this issue

Meet Our New
Reference Librarian

Explore Public Domain
Day

Celebrate Copyright Law
Day

New Amendments to
the Ohio Rules for 2026

New Ohio Laws for 2026

Membership Renewals Due **JANUARY 16, 2026**

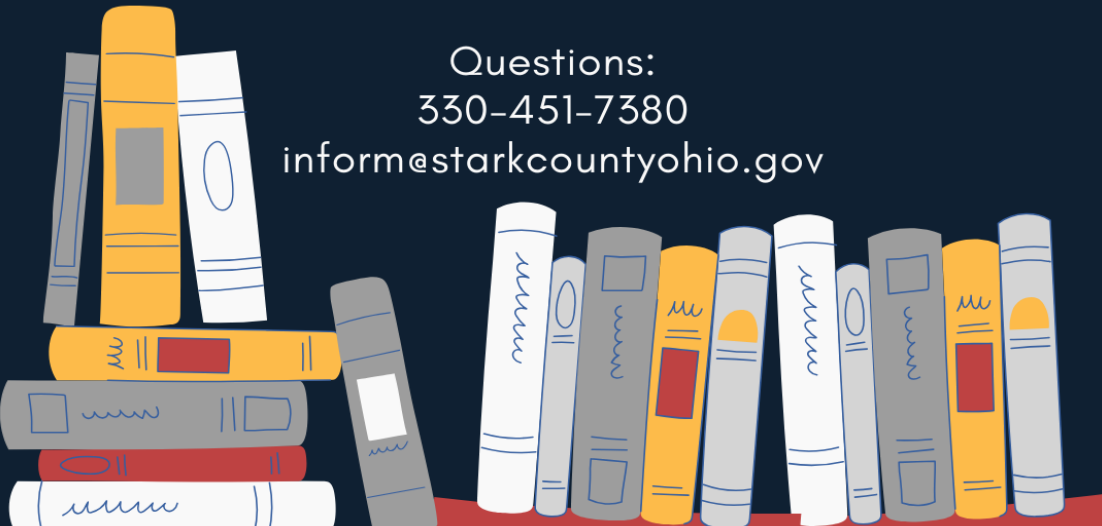
Pay online:

<https://paymentportal.starkcountyohio.gov>

Questions:

330-451-7380

inform@starkcountyohio.gov



**WE ARE
OPEN**
WEEKDAYS

MONDAY - FRIDAY

8:30AM - 4:30PM

**Stark County Law Library
Resources Board**

Sharon D. Miller, Chair
Joseph Martuccio
Bernard Hunt
John Frank
David Deibel