

legally SPEAKING

THE STARK COUNTY LAW LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

March 2026

ISSUE 3 | VOLUME 49

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Meet Our New Library Assistant—Sarah Brinkman

The Stark County Law Library welcomes a new Library Assistant, Sarah Brinkman. She comes to the Stark County Law Library with almost a decade of public library experience, working specifically in library outreach. We asked her a few questions to help you get to know her better.

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

When I was in middle school, I was obsessed with the television show JAG and convinced that one day I would be a lawyer like the characters in the show. I talked about it so much that my dad set up an opportunity for me to shadow a lawyer for a day. That experience was my first time at the Stark County Courthouse!

Even though I ended up pursuing a career in library work, I like to think middle school Sarah would be excited about our legal adjacent career.

What's a book/movie/podcast you've enjoyed recently?

I have been rereading one of my favorite novels, Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel. When I'm finished, I will probably dive into a rewatch of the limited series

based on the novel. It is one of the rare instances of an adaptation living up to the expectations of the original.

If you could have lunch with any historical legal figure or Supreme Court Justice—past or present— who would you choose?

This is my inner theater lover talking, but I would have to choose Alexander Hamilton. It would be fascinating to gain insight into the process of setting up our government and writing the first iterations of our laws. I also wonder what he would think of the Hamilton musical. It would be fun to explain the whole thing to him, including the concept of a musical, as he missed the first one by a few decades.



Common Law Marriage, Coverture, Miscegenation, and Legislative Divorce: Not Quite 250 Years of Ohio Family Law

This CLE presentation will survey historical changes in Ohio Family Law regarding topics such as who is permitted to marry, dissolution of marriage, parental rights support, and more!

Hours: 1 hour of general CLE credit

Where:
Zoom

When:
Thursday, March 19, 2026
10:00 AM—11:00 AM EST

Price:
Free

Register here:
<https://clevelandlawlibrary.org/public/misc/cle/2026/ohfamlaw250cle.pdf>

Want a break from legal research?



(Located on the 4th floor, outside the Law Library)

Browse our Free Book Cart. Take a book. Share a book.

New Ohio Laws Effective in March

Several new Ohio laws are going into effect on Wednesday, **March 18, 2026**, among them HB 247, SB 56, followed by HB 114 on Friday **March 20, 2026**.

HB 247 makes significant modifications to Ohio's dangerous and vicious dog statutes. Also known as "Avery's Law," the bill updates the definitions and qualifying offenses for "vicious dog," "dangerous dog," and "nuisance dog." It outlines penalties for owners of dogs in these classifications who allow them to run at large or who negligently fail to prevent their dog from engaging in vicious, dangerous, or nuisance behavior.

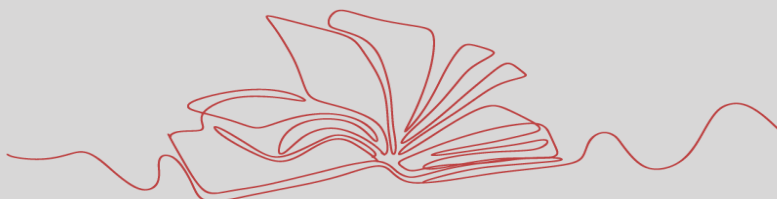
The streamlined "Dogs Running at Large" provisions are now codified at RC 955.21 (renumbered from RC 955.22). The process for declaring a dog vicious, dangerous, or nuisance has also been revised. Dog wardens and other authorized officials may designate a dog under these classifications if they have probable cause to believe the dog committed a qualifying act. Owners who wish to contest the designation may now request a hearing in the jurisdiction where the incident occurred, rather than in the jurisdiction of the owner's residence as previously required.

SB 56 brings revisions to Ohio's marijuana laws, clarifying the terms "adult-use marijuana", "medical

marijuana", and "homegrown marijuana". It includes additional restrictions for how homegrown marijuana can be moved and consumed. It also establishes several actions that an individual or dispensary can take which moving forward constitute trafficking.

Ohioans for Cannabis Choice are in the process of collecting signatures for a proposed referendum to SB 56, aiming to repeal several sections of the bill. Their resubmitted referendum proposal was accepted by State Attorney General Dave Yost in early February. The required 248,092 signatures must be collected and submitted by March 20, 2026. Should they be successful, the issue will be added to the November 2026 ballot.

HB 114, in addition to correcting a state test scoring error, modifies the age requirements for children entering kindergarten. A child that is five years of age by the first day of the school year cannot be turned away from enrolling in their local school district. School districts may still enroll children not yet five on a case by case basis, as long as the child turns five by January 1st of the school year. Children not yet 5 by January 1 must wait until the next school year. School districts have the option to establish their own policies and evaluations regarding early entry.



Ohio Supreme Court Requests Pro Bono Information

If you have worked pro bono, the Supreme Court of Ohio wants to know about it. Links to the annual Pro Bono Survey were sent out February 10, 2026. The survey takes less than ten minutes to complete and aims to capture data including the number of hours Ohio attorneys have worked pro bono as well as financial contributions to charitable legal organizations. This information is used by the Supreme Court of Ohio and the Ohio Access to Justice Foundation to better understand the needs of Ohioans using these services. According to Court News Ohio, attorneys “reported contributing more than 86,000 hours of pro bono work in 2024...”

Surveys are due by March 13, 2026.

More information about the survey can be found here:

https://www.courtnewsohio.gov/happening/2026/ProBonoService_021126.asp



Fastcase is now vLex

The legal research platform Fastcase has officially transitioned to vLex Fastcase. This change follows the 2023 acquisition of Fastcase by vLex. vLex Fastcase will still provide quick access to primary law research content and aims to do so in a more efficient and user-friendly way.

The vLex platform boasts new and upgraded features integrated with Vincent AI, an AI tool quoted to be “designed for lawyers.” Navigation on the front page now includes research areas to help narrow down desired results faster. Users will also be able to customize news feeds on the platform tailored to their areas of interest. vLex retains popular Fastcase features such as saving and downloading documents and setting docket alerts. Users with research saved in Fastcase are able to migrate their work into vLex.

Stark County Law Library members have access to vLex Fastcase and its upgraded AI tools via the member research area on the Law Library website. Please contact the Law Library with any questions or for help with this transition.



New eBooks

ABCs of Arbitrage : Tax Rules for Investment of Bond Proceeds by Municipalities

Authors: Tsilas, Vicky / Betterton, Kimberly

Edition: 2nd

Copyright Date: 2026

Collier on Bankruptcy

Authors: Resnick, Alan N. / Sommer, Henry J.

Edition: 16th

Copyright Date: 2026

Eyewitness Testimony: Civil and Criminal

Authors: Loftus, Elizabeth F. / Doyle, James M. / Dysart, Jennifer E. / Newirth, Karen A.

Edition: 7th

Copyright Date: 2026

New Appleman Ohio Insurance Law

Author: Dunn, Theodore Jr.

Edition: 5th

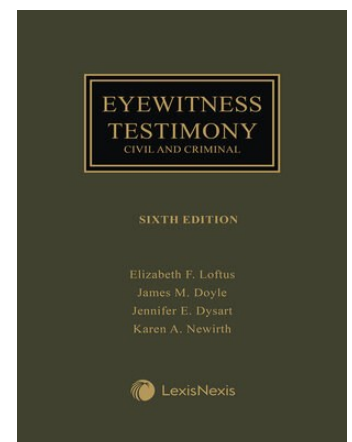
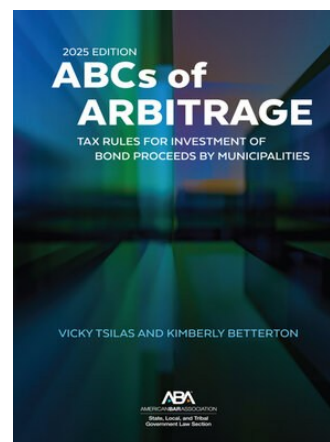
Copyright Date: 2026

Moore's Federal Practice

Authors: Coquillette, Daniel R. / Joseph, Gregory P / Schreier, Sol / Solovy, Jerold / Vairo, Georgene M. / Moore's Board of Editors

Edition: 3

Copyright: 2026





THE STARK COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

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E-mail: inform@starkcountyohio.gov

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Monday - Friday
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM