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SPEAKING



THE STARK COUNTY LAW LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

May 2026

ISSUE 5 | VOLUME 49

Ohio Judges Can Now Endorse Political Candidates

The Supreme Court of Ohio has ruled against a longstanding provision of the Code of Judicial Conduct that prohibited judges from endorsing political candidates.

The decision stems from a 2024 disciplinary case involving John Williams Rudduck of the Clinton County Common Pleas Court. During the 2023 primary, Judge Rudduck used Facebook to endorse his son in his campaign for a municipal court judgeship.

Writing for the majority, Sharon Kennedy stated, “Judges do not give up their First Amendment right to engage in political speech simply by assuming office.” The opinion acknowledges some races may raise concerns but concludes a judge’s position does not eliminate that right.

In dissent, Patrick Fischer cautioned that allowing endorsements could create conflicts of interest. For example, a judge who endorses a candidate for attorney general may later need to recuse themselves from related cases. He also questioned

addressing First Amendment issues when they had not been raised earlier.

Although changes to the Code of Judicial Conduct typically require a formal amendment process, including public comment and a vote prior to adoption, the court did not revise the rule through that process. Instead, it found the existing restriction unconstitutional, rendering it unenforceable while the text remains in place pending formal revision.

Ohio is now the only state that explicitly allows judges to make partisan political endorsements. By contrast, federal judges are prohibited from making such endorsements under the code of conduct adopted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

Ohio’s primary election is scheduled for May 5, 2026. Voters will determine which candidates advance to the general election ballot in November, including races for governor, attorney general, auditor of state, and seats in the United States Congress.

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CLE— America 250 Salmon P. Chase: From “Attorney General for Runaway Slaves” to Chief Justice of the United States

When:
May 21, 2026 2:00PM-3:00PM

Where: Zoom

Cost: Free

To register sign up here:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9876543210>

How to Check Out Lexis eBooks

The Law Library offers online access to over 1,400 legal titles! Members can access these books from anywhere. Follow the steps below (or click on one of our new ebooks links to the right!) to try it out.

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Step 3—If prompted to enter a library code, enter “cochl” in the box.

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Ohio Attorney General Awards CSU \$5 Million for New Prosecutor Program

In early April, Attorney General Dave Yost announced a \$5 million award to Cleveland State University to establish a Prosecutor Training Program. The funding initiates a 15-year partnership between the Attorney General’s Office and the university.

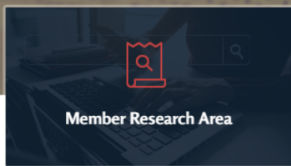
The Prosecutor Training Program will be the first of its kind in Ohio and will be housed within CSU’s College of Law. The university was selected through a competitive request-for-proposals process conducted by the Attorney General’s Office. The initial funding will support development of a self-sustaining model through student enrollment, endowment income, university support, and external partnerships.

The program is expected to begin in the 2026–2027 academic year and will admit approximately 10 to 12 students annually. Participants will receive individualized training and mentorship designed to prepare them for careers in prosecution and criminal justice. Students may choose to complete coursework in person or online. A press release from the Attorney General’s Office states that the

program “aims to build and sustain a pipeline of highly trained legal professionals committed to public service.”

The Prosecutors Training Program will play a role in the Attorney General’s plan to strengthen public safety in Ohio. CSU’s president Dr. Laura Bloomberg said, “many of our students choose to remain in Ohio after graduation, utilizing their skills and building their careers in our state.” Attorney General Dave Yost’s hope is that by investing in our future prosecutors, they are also investing in the safety of Ohio communities.





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Author: Richmond, Douglas R.

[Model Business Corporation Act \(2025 Revision\)](#)

Author: Corporate Laws

[A Lawyer's Guide to AI: Ten Essential Concepts](#)

Author: Henshon, Matthew T.

[Family Lawyer as Peacemaker](#)

Authors: Mosten, Forrest S. / Traum, Lara

[Effectively Steering the Ship: A Case Management Manual for Family Law Mediators](#)

Authors: Lawhon, Paula Michele

[The AI-Enabled Law Firm](#)

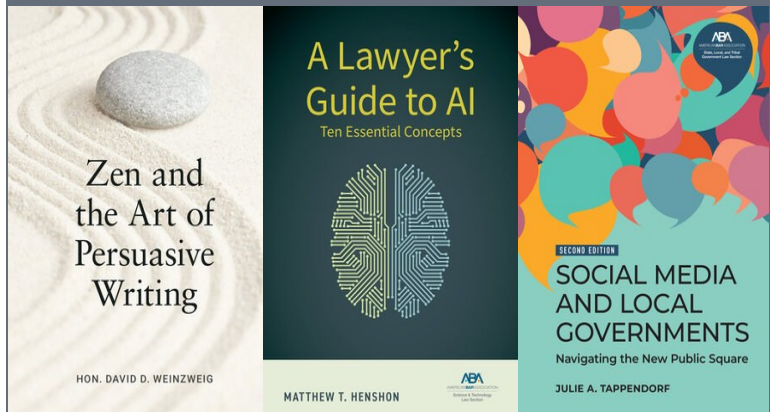
Authors: Switzer. Carole Stern / Dittmar, Lee

State and Local Government Compliance Extension

Under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, state and local governments are to ensure their services, programs, and activities are accessible to people with disabilities. This includes those offered online or through mobile apps. A looming deadline for local government compliance (including ours here in Stark County) has been issued an extension by the Department of Justice.

In their Interim Final Rule, the DOJ has extended their compliance deadline from April 26, 2026 to April 26, 2027 (for government entities with a population of over 50,000) or April 26, 2028 (for those under 50,000). The original 2026 deadline was set in 2024 with the passing of Title II's web accessibility rule.

In order to get ahead of these requirements and prioritize the accessibility of our materials, you may notice changes to the material housed on our website. Also, stay tuned for our updated newsletter format starting next month!





THE STARK COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

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E-mail: inform@starkcountyohio.gov

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We Are
CLOSED

Monday,
May 25, 2026

FOR MEMORIAL DAY

Stark County Law Library Resources Board

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



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