

GUILTY PLEA ENTERED IN CJIS HACKING CASE

Michael Rogers, a 21-year-old man from Canton, has pleaded guilty to charges relating to the hacking of Stark County's Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS). The case now awaits a presentence investigation.

Beginning in January 2024 and continuing until the hack was discovered in August 2024, Rogers operated a computer query program designed to find and save personal, private data to a hard drive that he controlled and maintained. The accessed data included names, birthdates, and case information from the Canton, Massillon, Alliance, and Stark County court systems. Rogers later called the police and took credit for the data breach.

In addition to the computer fraud charges, Rogers faces destruction of records charges. In June and July 2025, Rogers destroyed a computer, cellphone, and hard drive, all of which contained evidence of his computer fraud crimes. In addition to the CJIS hack, Rogers is also charged with using malware to access sensitive employee information from a Connecticut-based company in 2023.

Sentencing has not yet been scheduled. Guilty



[Read More - Page 2](#)

NEW JUDGE APPOINTED TO FAMILY COURT

Magistrate Proctor-Donald to take over retiring Judge Hall's seat.

[On Page 2](#)

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Continued from Page 1 - CJIS

pleas to computer fraud and destruction of records were entered before Magistrate Judge Jennifer Dowdell Armstrong in U.S. District Court. She has since recommended the case to Judge Charles E. Fleming, who will sentence Rogers based on the results of a presentence investigation.

As a result of this data breach, the Stark County Commissioners are moving to create in-house control over CJIS. Actions toward this end remain in mediation following a complaint filed with the Supreme Court of Ohio. Mediation was scheduled to take place in August.

NEW JUDGE APPOINTED TO STARK COUNTY FAMILY COURT

October brings changes to the Stark County Family Court with the retirement of Judge Rosemary A. Hall. Appointed to serve the remainder of her term is Magistrate Beverly P. Proctor-Donald.

Judge Hall announced her retirement in June after more than a decade of service in the Stark County Family Court. She has stated that it feels like the right time to retire and that she is looking forward to spending more time with her family. The Stark County Republican Executive Committee met later in June to decide upon its recommendation of up to 3 candidates to fill the seat.

Governor Mike DeWine announced his decision to appoint Magistrate Proctor-Donald to fill the seat on August 5. She will serve as judge through at least the next election cycle in November 2028. The remainder of the seat's six-year term will be decided by voters at that time.

The changes take effect on October 1, 2026. Best wishes to Judge Hall, and congratulations to Magistrate Proctor-Donald! We wish you both great things in these new chapters of your lives.



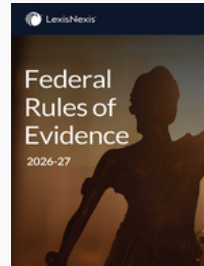
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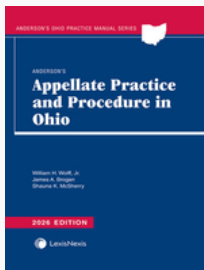
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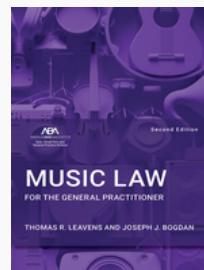
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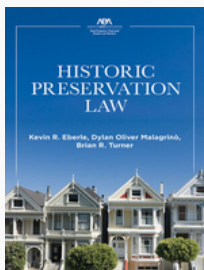
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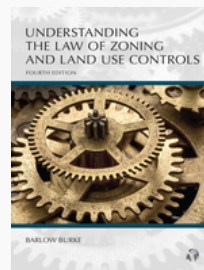
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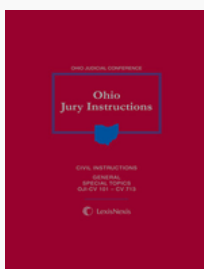
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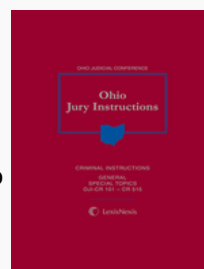
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