

Bar Briefs



Jeffrey T. Cox

FARUKI+ PLL

125TH DBA PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Emerge. Engage. Enjoy.

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BARRISTER OF THE MONTH

Gary W. Auman

pg 6

2027 CLE ABROAD

Journey to Morocco

pg 18

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Emerge. Engage. Enjoy.

As your new DBA President, allow me to share three exhortations here at the advent of our program year:

By Jeffrey T. Cox Esq.
FARUKI+ PLL JCox@fclaw.com

The legal professional community here in our Dayton region has a long and storied heritage and the Dayton Bar Association is one of our community's foundational professional organizations. This year will be one in which we honor that heritage while looking to an exciting future. Mindful of the frequent and turbulent happenings of the past decade -- both global and local -- and confronted with the costs and uncertainties of our ever-evolving technological era, we must consider how best our Association can provide the value and service our membership, our profession, and our community deserve. For voluntary member organizations, it's always the right and challenging question to be asking. In my experience, standing on the status quo is a more convenient, but always less productive route than asking the hard questions, like "what's next?" or "how could we improve?" Those questions are ones your DBA Board and Staff are excited to embrace.

The DBA's mission is "to enhance member professional standards of excellence; collaboration among the Bench and Bar; and the successful practice of law and personal well-being of our members." This seemingly straightforward mission statement is on target, but can only be fully realized and appreciated when we make it alive; this brings me to the first of my three exhortations:

Emerge.

For DBA members to fully enjoy the full array of DBA offerings and services, I suggest we must continue to emerge -- both consciously and subconsciously -- from the lingering shadow of 2020-21. The Pandemic yanked us back collectively and individually from so much of our social and professional engagements, and closeted us behind computer monitors, remote and "hybrid" gatherings, and the like. Suddenly it became the norm to simply "dial it in." But at our core, we are social creatures and our choice of profession is one best experienced in person. So, I encourage us all to emerge and reconnect in a more intentional way, not only within our bar community but throughout our civic, charitable, and philanthropic involvements. The full value of DBA membership is best realized by active participation, which in turn is the key to full professional development and continuous growth. Our sister and brother nonprofit organizations greatly value these same attributes and the leadership and counsel you can provide to them. So, be present, be in-person, emerge.

Engage.

My DBA President predecessor, Jamie Greer, did a great job beating this drum and it naturally flows from my earlier point: a healthy Bench-Bar community is one that engages, that encourages discourse among senior and newer attorneys, that provides mentorship opportunities, that engages us socially with professional colleagues and beyond. What has long been true of our Dayton bar community is its reputation for collegiality. Having had the opportunity to appear in courts across the country, I cannot state strongly enough that the professional collegiality we enjoy here is hard-won and worth protecting and celebrating because it is not a universal experience enjoyed elsewhere. So, I urge you, to engage -- get together, rub elbows, share a lunch or libation, come out to the many DBA events to connect and reconnect with old friends and new acquaintances. The DBA Vision Statement calls for us "to enable excellence and collegiality... enhancing the administration of justice and the public's

respect for the law." That vision is best achieved when we dive in and engage with one another.

Enjoy.

When I first began practicing law, my colleagues (and later, my partners) Charlie Faruki, Jeff Ireland and Bill Gilliam urged my full participation in local, state, and national bar associations and I am so appreciative of the support provided to do so. I have had the opportunity to learn from, work with, and to lead initiatives for the Dayton Bar Association, the Ohio State Bar, the ABA, and the Federal Bar Association. With each involvement, I have met wonderful people and incredible professionals and have made great and lasting friendships. Locally, the relationships formed through engaged DBA involvement afforded me early and lasting exposure to seasoned practitioners and rising stars, and to members of our state and federal Benches; to try out my lawyering skills in open and receptive fora; and to learn from mentors and peers alike. I've always believed and found true that there is much to be learned by being present, by listening and observing. I have and continue to enjoy the relationships formed with and by virtue of membership and engagement in our wonderful bar association.

I would be remiss if I did not highlight the exceptional participation in our Association by our local state and federal judges and members of their staffs. The cooperative spirit of our legal community benefits greatly from the engagement of our judicial officers and our legal system works best when we all work together in support of the Rule of Law and an enduring independent judiciary.

Additionally, I want to recognize our good fortunate to have an outstanding staff team at the DBA. Having met over the past year with local, state and national bar leaders from across the United States, I am happy (but not surprised) to report that our DBA staff team under Jennifer Otchy's leadership is accomplishing more with less

and functioning much better than many like-sized and much larger organizations and providing our membership with the most bang-for-your-buck professional offerings!

What's Next?

The DBA year ahead is full of promise and has much to be offered. We have active practice Sections and Committees with energized leaders readying timely programming. A few key points for your planning radar:

(1) Asking "what's next?" We are undertaking a strategic planning process – the first in many, many years -- to chart a path forward for our association in the coming years.

(2) A new home? We are undertaking necessary steps to market and sell our current DBA office condominium, which has served our Association well for 20+ years, and to relocate to a new location in downtown Dayton, right-sized for our current and future needs and to best direct our budget towards continuing to provide the best offerings and value to our membership.

(3) Let's emerge, engage and enjoy! Mark your calendars and join me for a fall social Wednesday, September 16th from 4:30 – 6:30 pm here at my office – Faruki PLL at 110 North Main, Suite 1600. No agenda and no cost to you; just a chance to get together and enjoy fellowship with one another.

(4) Celebrating our heritage. Watch for details for a big Law Day celebration next spring at Carillon Park, and the exciting unveiling of Dayton History's new legal heritage exhibit.

On behalf of our DBA Board of Trustees, I thank you for your membership and I hope you will be open to my exhortations and will encourage others to join you in emerging, engaging, and enjoying, all the opportunities your Dayton Bar Association offers you for this coming year and beyond! 🌟

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GARY W. AUMAN

Auman, Mahan + Furry

Gary Auman, a director with Auman, Mahan & Furry, has more than 50 years of experience as a noted authority and staunch management advocate in workers' compensation and occupational safety and health law. Gary represents both small and large companies and serves as general counsel to several national and regional trade associations. He also volunteers some of his time in speaking to area safety councils on the importance of providing a safe and healthy working environment for their members' employees.

Where are you from?

I am originally from Reading, Pennsylvania. After earning a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Louisville. I commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Air Force and assigned to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base from 1969-1973. After my military service, I graduated from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law in 1976. My first job out of law school was with Smith & Schnacke in Dayton, and my wife, our daughter and I have called Dayton home ever since.

What did you want to be when you were growing up?

My time with the Boy Scouts inspired a love of the wilderness and the national park system, and I wanted to work for the National Park Service.

What made you want to become an attorney?

I have always enjoyed the challenge of solving problems. I initially pursued electrical engineering because it would allow me to create solutions to practical problems. As part of my engineering studies, I took two courses that exposed me to a new set of problems: legal ones. That experience, along with my interactions with attorneys and opportunities for public speaking in the Air Force, solidified my interest in the legal field.

What role or experience has been the most formative for your career and your understanding of the law and legal system?

Eight days before I was sworn in as a licensed attorney in Ohio, my employer handed me a workers' compensation case. At that time, you did not have to be a licensed attorney to appear in a workers' compensation case before an administrative panel of the Industrial Commission. That changed just two months later, when the law began requiring a licensed attorney to represent clients in workers' compensation matters. Because of this timing, I was one of the few licensed attorneys in my firm with workers' compensation experience when the law changed. That was the beginning of a long and successful career in workers' compensation and occupational safety and health law.



Rulon Gardner, Olympic gold medalist in Greco-Roman wrestling and keynote speaker at the Nat'l Frame Bldg. Assn. Conv.



2025 United Rehabilitation Service Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by Dennis Grant, CEO.



*Friends & family: Mary and Harold Rieck,
Chuck Berry and Gary with wife Rachel.*

Do you have any favorite hobbies, pastimes, or special talents to share?

I have a passion for volunteering. I believe it is essential for attorneys and other working professionals to give back to the communities that support them. The legal profession has allowed me to do that. I have been involved with many non-profits throughout the Dayton region for many years. I began volunteering with the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce where I served as Board Chair in 2000 (and where I am still active with one of its programs; the Dayton Miami Valley Safety Council), Goodwill/Easter Seals of the Miami Valley to supporting United Rehabilitation Services, which honored me with its Lifetime Achievement Award in 2025.

I am also addicted to reading mystery novels. One of my favorite places to visit is a bookstore called The Poisoned Pen in Scottsdale, Arizona. It was founded by an attorney and specializes in hosting events for the mystery novel community.

What is your least favorite part of the job?

Having to explain to a client that in spite of their best efforts to protect their employees they have not done enough to comply with the myriad of safety and health standards that govern the actions of industry in the operation of their businesses.

What advice would you give to new attorneys?

When you are looking for a job, have a good idea of the type of law you want to practice and the environment in which you want to practice it. If you work for a private firm, your time will seldom be entirely your own; your schedule will depend in many instances on the needs of your clients.

When you are a new attorney, always ask for more work rather than sitting idle, whether it is billable or not. In private practice, how you spend your time is evaluated by your supervising partner. During your time on the partnership track, they are watching you and evaluating the commitment and effort you give to the firm.

Finally, never forget to give back. This can be with the Volunteer Lawyers Project, as court-appointed counsel, or as I have chosen to get heavily involved in the non-profit community. I am still very active with non-profits and there are countless opportunities to volunteer your time in a very meaningful way.✚



*By Lisa D. Brown, JD, MPA
West Chester Township Administrator
lbrown@WestChesterOH.org*

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ANNUAL MEETING

Celebrating our legacy. Embracing our future.

On June 3, the DBA hosted its premier event of the year, our Annual Meeting, at the University of Dayton Marriott. We celebrated outgoing President Jamie Greer and thanked him for a wonderful year of leadership and service, strengthening our enduring "Legacy," while welcoming Jeffrey T. Cox as the DBA's 125th President and swearing in our new Board of Trustees. Members and guests enjoyed live music from the Jimmy Leach Jazz Duo as we also recognized our dedicated committee leaders. Special thanks to photographer Julie Noeth for capturing the evening, our generous sponsors listed at right, and everyone who joined us to celebrate the ending of another great Bar year!

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DBF President, Merle F. Wilberding



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2026 Leadership Development Class Members & Chair, Kara Ruffolo



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2026 DBF Fellows Class Members & DBA CEO, Jennifer Otchy





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Jeff & wife Jenny with Board Secretary, Joanna Garcia



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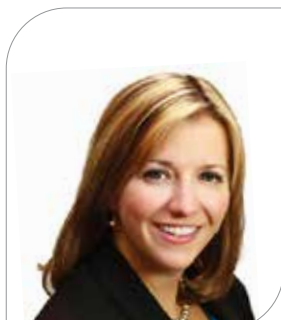
Treasurer

The Honorable Elizabeth A. Ellis

Montgomery County Common Pleas Court

Judge Ellis was appointed to the General Division bench in June 2023. A graduate of Denison University and the University of Dayton School of Law, she spent nearly two decades with the Greene County Prosecutor's Office, serving in multiple divisions and as Chief Assistant of the Civil Division before joining the Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office

Appellate Division in 2021. Judge Ellis is active in several legal organizations, is admitted to practice in Ohio and multiple federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, and has volunteered with organizations such as the Girl Scouts of Southwestern Ohio and the Dayton Ballet.



2nd Vice-President

Lauren K. Epperley

Subashi Wildermuth Justice & Epperley

Lauren is a litigation attorney with Subashi, Wildermuth, Justice & Epperley whose practice includes defending automobile accident claims, local school districts, and cases involving political subdivision immunity. Lauren has served on and chaired various committees with the DBA. She has chaired the Civil Trial and ADR Committee. She is the current co-chair of one of the grievance committees. She previously served as the chair of the DBA's Leadership Development Class (Now known as NextGen

Leaders Class). She also previously served as an at-large member for the Board of Trustees. Before joining the firm, Lauren clerked for Judge Dennis J. Langer of the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas and interned with the Ohio State University Football Team during its 2002 National Championship season. A Dayton native, she now lives in Englewood with her husband and twin sons.



Member-at-Large

Vipal J. Patel

U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Ohio

Vipal serves as the First Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, returning to the role in 2026 after serving as a partner with Squire Patton Boggs. During his distinguished career with the U.S. Attorney's Office, he served as Acting U.S. Attorney, First Assistant U.S. Attorney, Criminal Chief, and Deputy Criminal Chief, leading major criminal and national security investigations. In 2022, he received the U.S. Department of Justice's

Attorney General's Award (DOJ's highest recognition) for Outstanding Work in Furthering the Interests of U.S. National Security for leading the federal investigation and enforcement action following the 2019 Dayton Oregon District mass shooting. He spent 2011 in Afghanistan on a Rule of Law assignment for DOJ. Patel has also taught as an adjunct professor at the Univ of Dayton School of Law since 2008 and is active in numerous community organizations throughout the Dayton region.



Member-at-Large

Kara T. Ruffolo

Coolidge Wall Co., LPA

Kara focuses her practice on multigenerational wealth transfer planning, business succession planning, probate and trust administration, and federal, state, and local tax matters. She advises clients on estate planning, tax compliance, business transitions, corporate restructurings, mergers, and acquisitions, helping individuals, families, and business owners achieve long-term financial goals. Before joining Coolidge, Kara worked as a tax consultant with EY, supporting clients in complex mergers, acquisitions, and divestitures. She earned her B.B.A. from Loyola

University Chicago, her J.D. with a concentration in Business and Compliance Law, and her M.B.A. from the University of Dayton.

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Samantha R. Shemavonian

Coolidge Wall Co., LPA



Not everybody knows what they want to be when they grow up and even less stick with their original idea. For Samantha Shemavonian, however, she knew she wanted to be a lawyer and stuck with it. Although young Samantha was unsure what “being a lawyer” really meant, she drafted contracts for her parents to sign, “if I do X, you said we could do Y,” and routinely gave oral arguments about why she should or should not be in trouble—sometimes even with an accompanying power point. As her parents and others predicted, she became an attorney.

Samantha is originally from Toronto, Canada, where she lived until she was approximately thirteen. From there, her family moved to Naples, Florida where she went to high school. She attended Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama for two years before finishing her undergraduate education locally, with her last two years at Cedarville University. At Cedarville, she participated in the Cedarville University Student Government and was President of the Cedarville Legal Society. Despite all this moving, Samantha maintained excellent grades and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in political science with a Bible minor.

Afterwards, Samantha attended the University of Dayton School of Law where she was the Managing Editor of the University of Dayton Law Review and a Teaching Assistant for both Legal Profession II and Elements of Legal Analysis. She also spent a Summer as a law clerk with a Juvenile Court Judge in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

She has worked at Coolidge Wall, L.P.A. since May 2023, starting as a clerk until her bar passage in 2024. Her current practice areas are Labor & Employment with some Litigation. Samantha is involved in the Dayton Bar Association as the Co-Chair of the New Lawyer’s Division and has participated in the Leadership Development Class. She is also a member of the Ohio State Bar Association.

One of the biggest lessons she’s learned so far in her practice is how to balance confidence with questioning yourself. As an example, Samantha says you have to walk a fine line when doing research. Be confident enough to trust your hard work and analysis to bring it to a partner, but not so confident

that you stop questioning yourself or checking your work. Neither under confidence nor overconfidence serves you well.

One of her most memorable moments of her career thus far was winning her first trial. It was a bench trial with a nervous client who suggested that they drop the case when the other side showed up with (in her mind) a more experienced looking attorney. Despite her client’s concerns, the judge ruled from the bench in her client’s favor, giving her a courtroom win that reinforced her confidence as a young attorney.

Samantha’s life isn’t all law. First and foremost, she describes herself as “an unashamed and devout Christian.” Samantha also plays the guitar (that she keeps right on hand) and

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enjoys both running and cooking in her free time. She recently took up bread-making as well (and is thankful to an attorney at her firm gifting her a sourdough starter). In addition to her own cooking, she enjoys Italian food, Persian food, and sushi.

Samantha does not have any specific benchmark goals in the traditional sense. She wants to be known as someone who works hard, does work with integrity, and has the respect of her peers and superiors. With a career start like this one, Samantha's goals are certainly attainable and this life-long legal participant is certainly a rising star in the Dayton Bar Association.



By Samuel Saul Richardson Esq.
Sinclair Community College
SSRLaw@Outlook.com

50 YEAR HONOREE *Celebration*

HONORING FIVE DECADES OF
DEDICATION TO THE PRACTICE OF LAW



Gary Auman Esq.
Auman Mahan & Furry, LPA



The Honorable
Steven Dankof
*Montgomery County
Common Pleas Court*



James Dennis Esq.
Attorney at Law, LLC



Thomas Green Esq.
*Green & Green,
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Douglas Hahn



The Honorable
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(Retired)



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Feb 25th New Lawyer Bootcamp
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April 16th Annual DR Institute
April 30th Annual Diversity Day
May 7th Law Day + Chancery
May 12th Memorial Luncheon
June 2nd Annual Meeting

meetings, events & cle's OCTOBER 2026

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
28	29	30	1	2
5 First Monday in October Celebration + Chancery Club @UDSL 10:45-1pm	6	7	8	9
12	13	14 Sup Ct Update CLE @Zoom 11-1pm 2.0 Gen Hrs 50 Year Honoree 50yr Honoree Lunch @Sinclair 11:30-1pm	15 A Comprehensive Guide to Ohio Bail & PreTrial History CLE @Zoom Noon-1pm 1.0 NLT or Gen Hr	16
19	20 Inn of Court @Sinclair 5-7pm	21 Estate Planning Trust & Probate @DBA 4-5pm	22 New Lawyers Division @DBA Noon-1pm	23
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Practice Area Groups:	Meeting Dates:	Section Leadership:
Appellate Practice	Bi-monthly 1st Thursday @ 12pm	Terry Posey; Andrew French
Civil Trial and ADR	Bi-monthly 2nd Wednesday @ 12pm	John JP Jarecki; Jaren Hardesty
Corporate Counsel	Bi-monthly 3rd Tuesday @ 12pm	Connor Dowd
Criminal Law	Bi-monthly 1st Tuesday @ 12pm	Masooma Seyal
Domestic Relations	Bi-monthly 4th Wednesday @ 12pm	V. Elizabeth Flynn; Kaylin Jarecki
Employment	Bi-monthly 2nd Thursday @ 12pm	Susanne Ordonez
Estate Planning Trust and Probate Law	Monthly 3rd Wednesday @ 4pm	Nicolas Davis
Federal Practice	Bi-monthly 1st Wednesday @ 12pm	Callum Morris
Juvenile Law	Bi-monthly 4th Tuesday @ 12pm	Magistrate Kelsie Carson; Magistrate Ashley Leahy
New Lawyers Division	Monthly 4th Thursday @ 12pm	Samantha Shemavonian; Madison Rittley
Paralegal	Bi-monthly 2nd Tuesday @ 12pm	Tasha Wilson
Real Property/ Environmental Law	Bi-monthly 3rd Thursday @ 12pm	Lee Slone; Jordan Staley

NOVEMBER

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
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9	10 Paralegal @DBA Noon-1pm	11 Civil Trial Practice @DBA Noon-1pm	12 Employment Law @DBA Noon-1pm	13
16	17 Corporate Counsel @DBA Noon-1pm Inn of Court @Sinclair 5-7pm	18 Documenting ADA and Interactive Conversations CLE @Zoom 9-10:30am 1.5 NLT or Gen Hr Estate Planning Trust & Probate @DBA 4-5pm	19 Pro Bono Power: Turning Legal Skills Into Community Impact @ Zoom Noon-1pm 1.0 PC Hr	20 Chancery Club Luncheon @Sinclair 11:30-1pm
23	24	25	Real Property/Environmental @ DBA Noon-1pm New Lawyers Division @ DBA Noon-1pm	27
30	1	2 	3 BAR BUBBLY New Admittee Reception @ Coco's Bistro 4:30pm 	4



register daybar.org

SEPTEMBER

Wed 9/16 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Seminar Room | Credit: 1.0 Gen Hr

Estate Planning, Trust & Probate |

Sale of Real Estate from Estates and Guardianships

An overview of the various ways real estate may be sold from estates and guardianships in Ohio, including probate sale options, strategies for handling unexpected issues, and guidance on identifying the best approach for each situation.

Thurs 9/24 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Zoom | Credit: 1.0 NLT Hr

Legal Basics: Intellectual Property Procurement and Enforcement

An overview of how intellectual property rights are obtained and enforced, including patents, trademarks, trade secrets, and copyrights, with a focus on helping non-IP attorneys identify potential intellectual property issues for their clients.

Wed 9/30/2026 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

Zoom | Credit: 1.5 PC Hrs

Compassion Fatigue/Coping with a Psychologically Demanding Job

An overview of compassion fatigue and vicarious trauma, including how they develop, common emotional, physical, cognitive, and behavioral signs, and their impact. Participants will explore practical coping strategies and resilience-building practices to support their well-being while continuing to provide quality care.

OCTOBER

Wed 10/14 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Zoom | Credit: 2.0 Gen Hrs

Supreme Court Update:

A Review of the 2025-2026 Term and a Look Ahead to 2026-2027

The 2025–2026 Supreme Court Term brought major developments in executive power, individual rights, election law, and constitutional issues. The 2026–2027 Term will address significant questions involving gun regulation, religious liberty, gender identity, antitrust, criminal procedure, and executive power.

Thu 10/15 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Zoom | 1.0 NLT or 1.0 Gen Hr

Comprehensive Guide to Ohio Bail and Pretrial History

An overview of Ohio's bail and pretrial system, including its constitutional and statutory foundations, historical development, and key appellate decisions shaping current practices.

More programs added
at daybar.org

NOVEMBER

Fri 11/6 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Sinclair CC | Credits: TBA

34th Annual Bench Bar Conference

The DBA's 34th Annual Bench Bar Conference brings judges and attorneys together for a day of CLE programming, practical insights, professional development, and networking.

Wed 11/18 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Zoom | Credit: 1.5 NLT Hr

Documenting ADA and Interactive Conversations: Workers Compensation and Unemployment Claims

We'll discuss various events that trigger worker's compensation and unemployment claims employee claims and basic workplace strategies and actions to mitigate the worst case scenarios. We'll also talk about documentation strategies for ADA and other discussions and what you should and should not put in writing (print, text, or chat).

Thurs 11/19 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Zoom | Credit: 1.0 PC Hr

Pro Bono Power:

Turning Legal Skills Into Community Impact

Addressing attorneys' professional responsibility to provide pro bono services, Ohio's pro bono landscape, and practical considerations for effectively representing clients who lack access to legal services. A review of key ethical rules and learn how to identify volunteer opportunities that fit their skills and experience.

DECEMBER

Tue 12/8 9:00 AM - 12:15 PM

Seminar Room | Credit: 3.0 Gen Hrs

2026 Criminal Law Update with Judge Dankof

This annual CLE fave reviews the year's most significant criminal law decisions from the U.S. Supreme Court, Ohio Supreme Court, and Ohio appellate courts. Gain practical insights into how recent case law impacts trial practice, sentencing, post-conviction procedures, and other key areas of Ohio criminal law.

Wed 12/9 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Zoom | Credit: 1.0 Gen Hr

Anthropomorphism:

Is All the Hype About Claude for Legal Real?

An exploration of Anthropic's Claude and its growing role in the legal industry, including its capabilities, legal-focused tools, features, pricing, and practical applications for law firms. Gain a clearer understanding of how Claude can—and cannot—support legal practice and whether its expanding legal offerings are worth the attention.

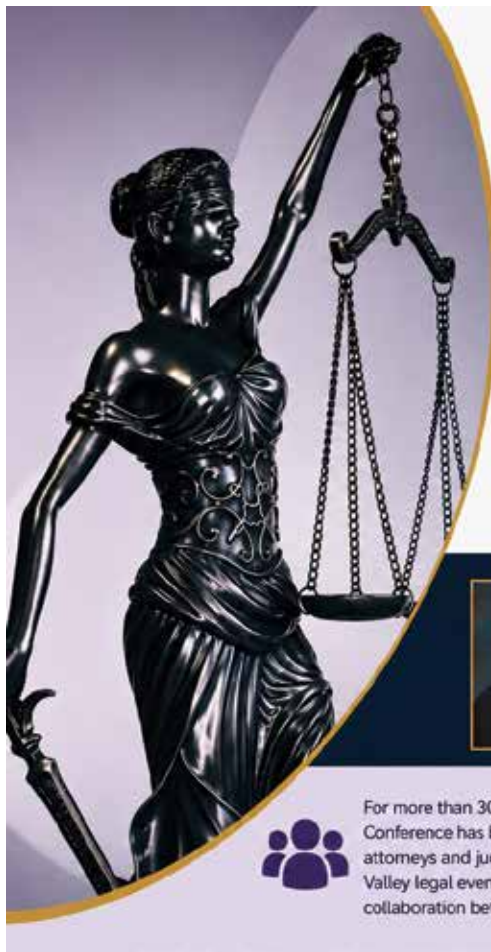
Thu 12/17 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Seminar Room | Credit: 3.0 NLT: 1.0 PC, 1.0 LPM + 1.0 CFM

2026 Core Components for New Lawyers

Fulfill the Ohio Supreme Court's requirement that attorneys admitted by exam complete three hours of instruction in professionalism, law practice management, and client funds management.

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Core Components for New Lawyers

Thursday, December 17th
9am-12:15pm 3.0 nlt hrs
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January 17-26, 2027

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fall 2026

DBA Upcoming Events

SEPT

AfterHours Social 9/16 | 4:30-6:30pm @ FARUKI+ PLL

Join us for a kick-off social to bring in the new bar year!

OCT

First Monday in October Celebration +

Chancery Club Luncheon 10/5 | 11:30-1pm @ UDSL

To increase awareness among students, attorneys and the public about the Supreme Court's significance.

50Yr Honoree Luncheon 10/14 | 11:30-1pm @ Sinclair

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STEVEN DANKOF

NOV

34th Annual Bench Bar Conference 11/6 @ Sinclair

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Chancery Club Luncheon 11/20 11:30-1pm @ Sinclair



More information:
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*By The Honorable Kimberly Melnick
Montgomery County Common Pleas Gen Div
Kim.Melnick@montcourt.oh.gov*

FLOCK CAMERAS

A useful law enforcement tool or an invasion of privacy

By now we've all heard of FLOCK cameras, AI powered automated license plate readers. Across the country, municipalities have installed tens of thousands of interconnected cameras on street corners, light poles, telephone poles, in parking lots, and neighborhood entrances that read every license plate that passes by the camera. These cameras also take photos of the vehicle and can identify distinguishing markers such as license plate numbers, bumper stickers, damage, rear spoilers, unique paint jobs, etc. The question remains, are the benefits to law enforcement outweighed by the privacy interests of the average citizen?

There is no question that these FLOCK cameras have been instrumental in aiding law enforcement. Vehicles involved in Amber Alerts can be located. Stolen cars can be recovered faster. Suspects of crimes can be apprehended, sometimes within minutes of a crime occurring. Suspects can also be ruled out of an investigation using these cameras. Law enforcement can enter a license plate and/or vehicle description and the FLOCK system will search the database giving law enforce-

ment a recent location of a vehicle matching the parameters entered. Law enforcement can ascertain directions of travel with timelines.

The argument FOR the use of the FLOCK cameras is obvious. People traveling on public streets have no right to prevent these cameras from photographing their vehicles. No different than commercial and residential security cameras that capture a person's vehicle driving past. I have presided over numerous cases where violent suspects have been located and apprehended within an hour of a horrific crime being committed. Public safety is definitely enhanced by the use of these cameras...but at what cost?

FLOCK cameras are operated by a private company called Flock Group Inc., doing business as Flock Safety. The City of Dayton recently terminated their contract with the FLOCK camera system

after an allegation that the data was being inappropriately shared by local law enforcement to federal immigration authorities, as reported by WHIOTV. This is currently being investigated. Law suits have been filed all over the country citing invasion of privacy and tracking of individuals. The argument being that due to the interconnected vast array of cameras, this system doesn't just locate, but can track the movements of a vehicle over large geographical areas. This type of tracking normally requires a search warrant.



As a former prosecutor, I didn't question the evidence that came from FLOCK cameras. My initial thought was, "If you're not doing anything wrong, why would you care?" I knew that the evidence that I had obtained was for a legitimate criminal investigation. As a member of the judiciary who is now looking at this impartially, now, I have questions. At what point should a search warrant be obtained? Who is auditing law enforcement's use of the system? Is there a way to ensure it is being used only as a proper investigative tool? Are there law enforcement officers that are using the system for personal reasons that could amount to stalking? What safeguards are in place to prevent abuse of this powerful information? Should access be limited to only certain designated higher ranking police officers?

Perhaps just as important, remember when I said Flock Safety was a privately held company? What information is being kept by the company? How long are they keeping it? Who else are they selling it to? Can any individual or corporate entity pay to gain access to this information? It's one thing to say that you are in a public place, so you have no privacy rights. It's another to have the ability to follow you through town and out of town. Patterns can be learned. Associations can be discovered. When a company can stockpile this type of information of "public" information, should its use be restricted? At what point does your public pattern become a privacy interest?

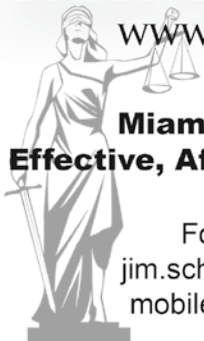
Ring, the doorbell company, reports on their website that they were planning some type of partnership with Flock Safety. Ring announced that they have canceled the partnership. This begs the question, do our home surveillance video systems have agreements that we aren't aware of where your home videos may be shared with outside companies?

I have no doubt that these legal questions will soon be riddling our local courts. Some states are enacting statutes limiting the ability to stockpile the data. Essentially, placing an expiration date on it. With the amount of data breaches that occur daily, how long until this information ends up on the dark web to the highest bidder?

As technology continues to advance at a rapid pace, are we thinking about the ramifications of these advances? I know this article is asking questions rather than answering them. It's all food for thought. So, I ask one last question...What do you think?

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*We are proud to reintroduce this feature highlighting
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Check out the online archives for past features:

Walter Reynolds, Nov/Dec 2025

Mock Trial Volunteers, Feb 2020

Kermit Lowery, Su' 2019

Buzz Portune, Mar. 2019

Lynn Reynolds, Nov. 2018

D. Jeff Ireland, Su' 2018

Submit your nominations for consideration:

Shayla M. Eggleton

Director, Communications & Membership

seggleton@daybar.org



This article is one of a series from the DBA Social Justice Initiative to inform our membership about, and to encourage your participation in, many of the non-profits in our community that address issues of social justice. **If you would like to suggest a non-profit for us to highlight, please contact Bonnie Beaman Rice at (937) 409-2880.**



By Carl Goraleski (Retired)
lracllerog@gmail.com



DBA SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE: *An Invitation to Serve*

For over 140 years, the Dayton Bar Association (DBA) has served as an essential organizational framework for area attorneys, promoting professional development, collegiality, and public service. While traditional practice-area committees—such as Domestic Relations, Probate, Civil, and Criminal Law—focus on specialized jurisprudence, the DBA also advances broader societal goals through dedicated initiatives like the Social Justice Initiative (SJI).

The SJI connects legal professionals with local non-profit organizations working to

alleviate systemic community challenges, including institutional racism, economic inequality, illiteracy, and disenfranchisement. Through these partnerships, the SJI raises awareness within the legal community regarding critical regional resources addressing poverty, domestic violence, and substance abuse, while highlighting ongoing opportunities for pro bono involvement and community advocacy.

A central pillar of the SJI's work is youth empowerment through educational engagement. Partnering with Dayton Public Schools,

DBA volunteer attorneys deliver programming centered on legal literacy, mentorship, and social-emotional development to help students navigate their responsibilities and rights as citizens. Managing this effort requires continuous coordination across school administrative schedules, institutional resources, and volunteer attorney availability to ensure sustained impact.

The work of the SJI depends on the support of DBA members. We encourage you to join today! ✨



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Showing Up Still Matters



*By Summer Hawks Esq.
Executive Director, GDVLP
summer@gdvlp.org*



Several years after COVID disrupted nearly every aspect of our lives, I think many of us have quietly settled into a new normal. We work from home more often. We attend meetings virtually. We order groceries from our phones. We stream entertainment instead of going out. We text instead of calling. Technology has made life more convenient in countless ways, and many of those changes are worth celebrating.

But convenience has also changed something else. It has become remarkably easy not to show up.

How many times have we all looked at the calendar after a long day and thought, "I'd really rather stay home tonight"? How often have we RSVP'd "maybe," only to decide at the last minute that the couch was more appealing than the event? None of us are immune. I certainly understand the feeling. The problem is that communities are built by the people who show up.

Lawyers know this better than most. The mentors who shaped our careers weren't people we met through a screen. They were the attorneys who stayed after a CLE to answer a question, introduced us to a judge at a reception, invited us to serve on a committee, or encouraged us to volunteer for a cause larger than ourselves. Those relationships were formed because someone made the effort to be present. The legal profession has always depended on more than legal knowl-

edge. It depends on relationships, trust, and service. Those things are difficult to cultivate from behind a keyboard.

At the same time, the organizations that make our community stronger need us more than ever. Nonprofits continue to face growing demand for services while many report ongoing challenges engaging volunteers and filling seats at fundraising and professional events.

For organizations like the Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Project, volunteers are not simply appreciated; they are the engine that makes access to justice possible. Every attorney who accepts a pro bono case, every law student who gives up an afternoon to staff a clinic, every retiree who mentors a young lawyer, and every donor who attends a fundraiser becomes part of a safety net that would otherwise have holes large enough for our neighbors to fall through. And that safety net has never been more important.

Legal aid organizations, food pantries, domestic violence shelters, youth programs, and countless other nonprofits are being asked to do more with fewer resources. Government funding has become less certain, charitable dollars are stretched further than ever, and the needs in our communities continue to grow.

In moments like these, showing up becomes more than good citizenship; it becomes an act of leadership.

Perhaps the greatest irony is that while technology promises connection, many people report feeling increasingly isolated. We can spend hours interacting with hundreds of people online without having a meaningful conversation with another human being. Professional organizations, volunteer projects, committee meetings, and community events offer something technology cannot: genuine relationships built through shared experiences.

Those experiences matter.

The attorney you meet at a volunteer clinic may become your next referral source. The young lawyer sitting beside you at a bar function may someday become your law partner, opposing counsel, or judge. The nonprofit board you join may expose you to leadership opportunities you never anticipated. More importantly, you may discover friendships and purpose that simply cannot be scheduled through an app.

The Dayton legal community has always been at its best when lawyers look beyond their own practices and invest in one another. That investment begins with something surprisingly simple. Say yes.

- ✓ **Yes** to the committee meeting.
- ✓ **Yes** to the bar association event.
- ✓ **Yes** to the fundraiser.
- ✓ **Yes** to mentoring.
- ✓ **Yes** to taking a pro bono case.
- ✓ **Yes** to introducing yourself to someone you don't know.
- ✓ **Yes** to leaving the house.

The next generation of lawyers is watching what we value. If we want a profession defined by service, collegiality, and community, then we have to model those values not just online, but in person.

Because communities are not built by intentions. They are built by people who show up. 🙌

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Join fellow UDSL alumni, faculty, staff and members of the local bar association for an evening of hors d'oeuvres, drinks and conversation as we welcome Dean Christopher J. Roederer and celebrate a new chapter in the University of Dayton School of Law community. You'll hear from Dean Roederer about the exciting things taking place at UDSL and the road ahead.



RSVP



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Regrets

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