

The Ohio Jury Management  
Association Newsletter

The Ohio Jury Management  
Association promotes and enhances  
jury service through  
excellent jury management.

# Jury Notes

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Judge Steve C. Shuff, OJMA Award of Excellence Recipient  
With Scott F. Sturges  
OSBF Fellows Class of 1998

As a member of the inaugural 1998 Fellows Class of the Ohio State Bar Foundation, Judge Steve Shuff helped to identify jury service in Ohio as the topic for the class project. The work of the class culminated in the first statewide conference, "Deliberations on Jury Service" in 1999.

Judge Shuff continued to have an interest in jury service issues and became a Trustee of the Ohio Jury Management Association in 2003, serving as OJMA President in 2006 and 2007. He was appointed by the late Chief Justice Thomas Moyer to the Ohio Supreme Court Jury Services Task Force in 2002. Judge Shuff volunteered to participate in a pilot project to test innovative jury practices in the courtroom in the Seneca County Common Pleas Court.

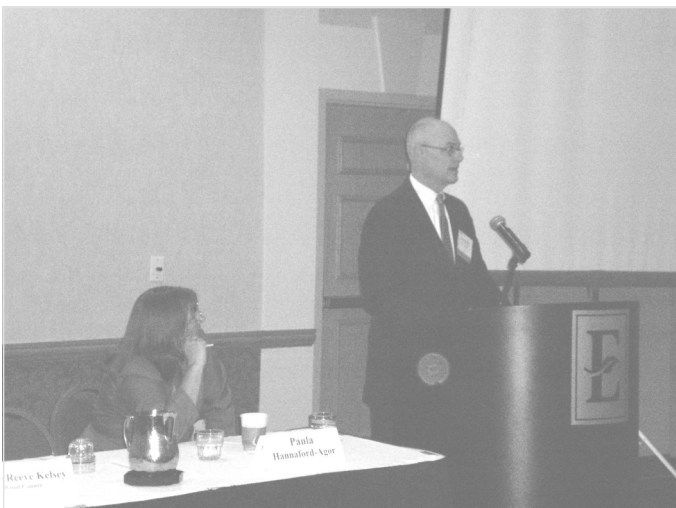
Judge Shuff, is a member of the Ohio Judicial Conference Jury Service Committee and he brings to the table a thorough understanding of the needs of the judiciary, as well as a genuine appreciation of the needs of jury managers and the individuals called upon for service as jurors.

~ OJMA is supported by the Ohio State Bar Foundation ~  
and your membership dues ~



Justice Yvette McGee Brown, Supreme Court of Ohio, talked about how the American justice system is the best in the world and those working in the system continually strive to improve it. Currently, the Supreme Court has more women than at any time in history.

OJMA Trustee Bob Jackson with our morning Plenary Session speaker, Judge R. Scott Krichbaum. Both are from the Mahoning County Common Pleas Court. Judge Krichbaum discussed the high profile trial, State of Ohio v. Michael Davis and other interesting jury trials in their court.



Judge Reeve Kelsey, of the Wood County Common Pleas Court, and the Director of the Jury Studies Center (NCSC), Paula Hannaford-Agor discussed new developments in jury management. As the Co-Chair of Ohio Judicial Conference Jury Services Committee, Judge Kelsey discussed the proposed Jury Services Bill.

**Franklin County  
Common Pleas Court**

Gretchen Roberts, Jury Manager

Jane Willis, Jury Manager

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**Location:** Columbus

**Jurisdiction:** 884,872 people age 18 and older

**Number of Jury Panels in 2010:** 478 (not all went to trial.)

**Number of Trials in 2010:** 227 jury trials in which verdicts were reached, mistrials declared or there was a hung jury.

**Number of Jurors Called:** 13,600

***Franklin County Courthouse Opens With Significant Improvements for the Jurors***

John Fuddy reported in the June 5 *Columbus Dispatch* that the new building has 20 general-division courtrooms, 10 magistrate courtrooms and two large specialty courtrooms for civil cases with multiple parties or high-profile trials expected to attract a crowd that the lawyers will plug their laptops into evidence carts to show photos or videos to jurors. Photos or maps projected on screens in the courtroom can be marked by witnesses simply by touching a screen in front of them..

Wireless, assisted-listening headphones are available for the hard-of-hearing or those who need to hear interpreters.

***No one will benefit more from the move than jurors,*** who have been confined to a dark, overcrowded assembly room while waiting to see whether they will be called to a courtroom.

"We called it the bat cave," said jury commissioner Jane Willis.

The current room isn't large enough to handle orientation sessions for the 150 or so jurors who report for duty each Monday morning.

The new assembly room, lined with windows offering a view of the Downtown skyline, is so expansive that it looks like the wing of an airport terminal. A massive movie screen and six flat-

screen televisions are available for orientation videos or to show movies as jurors wait to be called. The room also can be divided by temporary walls to provide quiet areas for jurors who want to read or work on their laptops.

The jury rooms for each courtroom are equally well-appointed, with their own kitchenettes and restrooms.



Vicky Unger met with Jane Willis and Gretchen Roberts, Jury Managers for the FCCPC on June 16, 2011. In addition to the jury amenities mentioned in the article, there are courtesy phones, lockers and a lactation room for mothers. The entire building follows LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, "green" building guidelines for environmentally conscious construction.

When jurors are called, they report to the first floor, view the OJMA orientation video, and sign in using a badge number every day.

The court changed to a one-week, one trial term and they report that the benefits have exceeded expectations. (See the Spring 2011 Jury Notes).



**House Bill 268 Update**

The bill is sponsored by Rep. Matthew Szollosi District 49 (Toledo area, Oregon City) and co-sponsored by Rep. Jim Butler from District 37 (Montgomery County.)

The Jury Services Bill was completed with the assistance of the Ohio Judicial Conference Jury Service Committee. The Committee Co-chairs, Hon. Reeve Kelsey and Hon. Jeffrey Keller, and the Committee worked with Rep. Szollosi on the bill. Judge Kelsey provided an update at the OJMA Conference April 29. Current OJMA members had the opportunity to comment on the draft of the Jury Services Bill.

The Bill was introduced in the Ohio House on June 16. The Bill is posted on the OJMA website at [www.ohiojury.org](http://www.ohiojury.org) under Legislation.

***(Over)***

## ***Juror's Bill of Rights***

### **A Proposal**

***We, the jury, having been duly summoned to appear, in order to provide a more perfect verdict, promote the public confidence and trust in the judicial system and to help secure the foundation of our democracy, do ordain and establish this Juror's Bill of Rights.***

1. The Jurors have the right to have certain basic conveniences provided to them.
2. The Jurors have the right to have an explanation about the case before the *voir dire* examination.
3. The Jurors have the right not to have their privacy unduly invaded.
4. The Jurors have the right to have the applicable law explained to them before presentation of evidence (preliminary jury instructions) and after the presentation of evidence (final jury instructions.)
5. The Jurors have the right to be provided an individual copy of all instructions on the law.
6. The Jurors have the right to take notes.
7. The Jurors have the right to submit written, clarifying questions to the witnesses.
8. The Jurors have the right not to know who the alternate juror is.
9. The Jurors have the right to be treated with dignity and respect.
10. The Jurors have the right to a post verdict conference with the Court and/or attorneys.

***— Submitted by Steve C. Shuff, Judge, Seneca County Common Pleas Court***

## **Member News**

Ohio Chief Justice, Maureen O' Connor has recently appointed Greene County Common Pleas Judge Stephen A. Wolaver to the Ohio Supreme Court Commission on the Rules of Practice and Procedure.

The Commission on the Rules of Practice and Procedure is a 19 member commission established by the Ohio Supreme Court. The Commission is responsible for suggesting and reviewing proposed amendments to the rules of Civil and Criminal procedure, Rules of Evidence and Traffic Rules. The Commission has 6 sub committees. Judge Wolaver is serving on the Criminal Rules and Rules of Evidence committees. His term is for 2 years with eligibility for another 2 year term. The work of the Commission is approved by the Ohio Supreme Court and Ohio General Assembly and affects how lawyers practice law in the Courts of Ohio. Judge Wolaver's appointment occurred as a result of the recommendation of the Director of the Ohio Judicial Conference to the Chief Justice.

OJMA Members may remember Judge Wolaver's presentations at our conferences. He has spoken on "Jury Technology" and "Grand Juries: A View From a Former Prosecutor".

"It is an extraordinary honor to serve on this Commission and to allow me to work toward improving the way lawyers and judges practice law in Ohio. It is another great opportunity to give back to my profession and the judiciary." Judge Wolaver notes.