

Butler County Law Library  
123 N. Third Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Hamilton, Ohio 45011  
(513)887-3455



**A newsletter created by the Butler  
County Law Library**

**History Mysteries**



**Can you identify the attorneys in this  
photo? If so, please contact us so we can  
place names with faces!**



# Butler County Law Library's “Exhibit A”

Issue 5 July 2023

## **Library Events and More!**

The Butler County Law  
Library Resources Board will  
be holding a Board meeting on  
Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup> at 12  
p.m. on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor of the  
GSC in the Prosecutor's office.

THE BCBA is holding a HAPPY  
HOUR CASH BAR EVENT July 20,  
2023 at the Pour House - 138  
Riverfront Plaza Hamilton, OH 45011  
from 4:30pm – 6:00pm  
Contact the Bar for more info.

## **BCBA in the News:**

### **Judge Michael Oster Jr. is a soccer coach, golfer and fisherman**

#### **Lauren Pack, Journal-News, Hamilton, Ohio**

Jun. 25—This is the second part of the Journal-News' "Behind the gavel" series featuring Butler County judges. It takes a look at those who make difficult decisions daily and how they live outside of the courtroom.

In Hamilton, Michael Oster Jr. spends his time wearing a judicial robe, but in Monroe, shorts and a coach's whistle are essentials for spending time on the field with young soccer players.

Oster, 45, was elected to the Butler County Common Pleas general division bench in November 2014, after 11 years prosecuting cases in the county prosecutor's office — with seven years leading the appellate division.

"It's funny, most people in Monroe know me as coach, but in Hamilton as judge," Oster said. "I really think more people recognize me from my coaching than my day job."

The native of Berea, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland, Oster began his love of soccer there, going on to play at Malone College (now university) where he was twice an Academic All-American in men's soccer.

These days, he is still "playing" while coaching the Monroe High School men's soccer team.

"I still get out there with them," he said with a laugh. "Albeit a bit slower with my new hip (which was replaced last year)."

Oster and his family lived in Monroe but are now residents of West Chester Twp., which is closer to his wife's job at Cincinnati State as chair of the law and paralegal department.

His children, Grayson, 15 and Cordelia, 12, are also athletes. Cordelia is a soccer player and a Grayson favors golf these days after a head injury ended his contact sports participation.

"So after about 12 or 15 years of not playing, I am out there with my son playing 18 holes," Oster said.

Completing the family is rescue pup "Mr. Flinton" who previously was a service dog to a hearing impaired child.

"He is the best trained dog. He knows sign language, and if you put a basket in the middle of the room and tell him to pick up all his toys, he will," Oster said. "Don't know

where the name came from. He was named when we got him, but we are less formal, we just call him Flinton."

Oster said he sees his coaching job as a way to affect young people positively, which is often different from his job in the courtroom.

"And, I mean, try to make them better people," he said. "My coach philosophy is, 'build the person and the athlete will follow'."

But the Monroe athletic department knows his job as an elected judge comes first.

"They are great about it, they know if there's a jury out of something like that, I can't make it even to games," Oster said.

And there have been times when the law and soccer overlapped.

"I have signed search warrants on the bench at a soccer field before games because this job comes first," Oster said.

Fishing, especially on family vacations, is also a hobby, and maybe reading an occasional history book. But watching courtroom dramas are a no-go.

"I will watch some of the movies. The TV shows I can't do. I used to love 'Law and Order,' even back when I was in law school. Now all I can say is 'you can't do that' when I watch," he said.

Oster met his wife while in law school at the University of Cincinnati. She is still a crime drama fan, but not with him around sucking all the fun out of it, he said.

The family did really love the recent hit Netflix show that shares his wife's unusual name — Wednesday.

"Oh yeah we all four got into it," he said.

Oster said while the job of judge can be isolating due to the ethical considerations they must follow, especially about cases, for the most part they walk around in anonymity when he is not wearing the black robe.

"I did have someone ask me, after realizing I was a lawyer, what I thought of that Judge Oster," he said. "I said I don't know, but you are looking at him."

## Ohio Legislation:

[HB19](#)  
[1](#) Revise the law regarding bail 2023-06-30 Effective  
[\[Detail\]](#)[\[Text\]](#)[\[Discuss\]](#)

[SCR4](#) Adopt the Legislative Code of Ethics 2023-05-24 Adopted  
[\[Detail\]](#)[\[Text\]](#)[\[Discuss\]](#)

Relative to the election of Brian Lorenz to fill the vacancy in the membership of the House of Representatives created by the death of Kris Jordan of the 60th House District. 2023-05-10 Adopted  
[HR130](#)  
[\[Detail\]](#)[\[Text\]](#)[\[Discuss\]](#)

CA: Require 60% vote to approve any constitutional amendment 2023-05-10 Filed with the Secretary of State  
[SJR2](#)  
[\[Detail\]](#)[\[Text\]](#)[\[Discuss\]](#)

## Ohio Supreme Court Opinions:

<a href="#">State ex rel. One Person One Vote v. LaRose</a>	2023-0630	Elections—Mandamus—Writ sought to compel secretary of state to remove proposed constitutional amendment from August 8, 2023 special-election ballot—Writ denied.	6/16/2023
<a href="#">Diller v. Diller</a>	2022-0058	Appeal dismissed as having been improvidently accepted.	5/9/2023

## **Butler County Spotlight:**

In this issue's spotlight we would like to highlight Imogene O'Lenick, an important member of our legal community who worked in Butler County for many years!

Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?  
(family, hobbies, interests)

I am married to Tom O'Lenick we have one son, Patrick. Patrick is autistic and lives on a farmstead for autistic adults in Madison Township, Safe Haven Farm. Tom and I were one of the founding families of Safe Haven, so most of our extra time is spent doing whatever is needed to support the farm and activities there. We now live at Mt. Pleasant, a retirement community in Monroe, and there are daily activities there. I also belong to a book club and a walking club, so I stay busy.

How long have you worked in Butler County?

I started working as a legal secretary for Mary Lord, an attorney in Middletown, in 1964. My last day working for Butler County was July 31, 2020, so a total of 56 years. I worked for Ms. Lord for seven years; Attorney Roger Turrell for eight years. Then I graduated from Cincinnati School of Court Reporting and Business and worked as a freelance court reporter for almost 10 years. In 1989, I began working for Butler County as Judge Anthony Valen's judicial assistant. When Judge Valen went to the Twelfth district Court of Appeals, I became Coordinator for the Butler County Drug Court (CDAT), where I worked with Judge Randy Rogers and then Judge Keith Spaeth until I officially retired in 2007. I worked as a fill-in legal secretary for a couple of law firms when their secretaries were on vacation or ill until I was hired as a part-time transcriptionist for

Butler County Domestic Relations Court, finally stopping work after 10 years there. So I have had a varied and rewarding career in the legal field.

How/Why did you become interested in your current position?

When I started working for Ms. Lord, I was a senior in high school and knew within a month that I had found my niche, so I stuck with it.

What do you enjoy most about working in the legal field?

The variety of people that I met and worked with and that my days were never routine, especially when I was a court reporter. I found that I missed having co-workers though and thoroughly enjoyed every day that I worked for the court system because it seemed there was never a dull day and I worked with wonderful people. I saw technology in the legal field evolve from manual typewriters and landline telephones to a complexly computerized court system; computerized legal research instead of books; emailing and cell phones where attorneys could keep their calendars. I was always challenged and felt that I learned something new every day.

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

Since I am now completely retired, I enjoy doing whatever I want whenever I want to do it, and that varies from day-to-day.

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## Watermelon Salsa

Time for a refreshing recipe  
with everyone's favorite  
summer fruit!

### Ingredients:

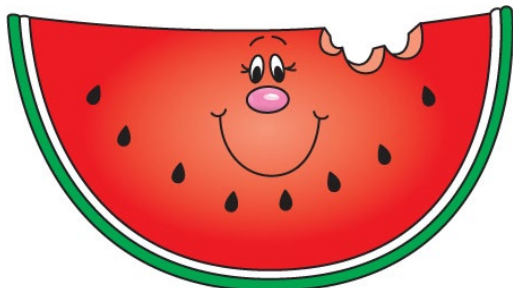
1/2 whole Small Seedless Watermelon,  
Diced  
1/2 whole Red Onion, Diced  
1 whole Red Bell Pepper, Seeded And  
Diced  
1 whole Green Bell Pepper, Seeded  
And Finely Diced  
1 whole Yellow Bell Pepper, Seeded  
And Finely Diced  
2 whole Jalapeños, Seeded And Finely  
Diced  
1 whole Bunch Cilantro, Chopped  
2 whole Juice Of 1 To 2 Limes  
1/2 tsp. Salt

### Directions:

Throw all the ingredients into a large  
bowl and toss it together. Taste with a  
chip and adjust ingredients as needed.

Serve with chips or on top of grilled  
chicken or fish...or as a side salad!

From: [thepioneerwoman.com](http://thepioneerwoman.com)



## Get to know your Law Library Staff:



Kristy Wells has been the Law Library  
Administrator since July of 2021. She  
has worked in the public library  
system for more than a decade, as well  
as in the Domestic Relations Court of  
Butler County. She has worked to  
implement many changes in the Law  
Library, including adding a “Featured  
Books” display and writing policy and  
procedure manuals. She is married  
and has two sons. In her spare time,  
you will find her watching her son’s  
hockey games or horseback riding. She  
also enjoys reading, especially  
mysteries.

Kyle Tackett is the Butler County Law  
Library clerk and has been since  
November of 2021. He is the first point  
of contact for patrons of the library.  
Should you have any questions feel  
free to call the library during business  
hours and he will be sure to answer  
any questions you might have.