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The UPDATE

News & Practice Pointers from OACTA

WINTER 2012

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SAVE THE DATE!

February 21-22, 2013
**Women in the Law
Seminar**

April 12, 2013
Trial Tactics Boot

President's Message

The Urge to Purge

By: Kevin C. Connell
2012 OACTA President



The holiday season and the coming of the New Year is a time for renewal, new beginnings, and a chance to start with a clean slate. We think of New Year's Resolutions and convince ourselves that this is the year: to start and stick with the diet; to take up a new sport; to be more (or less) adventurous. For me, the holidays always seem to create a need to clean out my office. Even in the digital age, I am constantly bombarded with paper. I still receive the OSBA "green book." There's a stack of them in the corner of my credenza, marked with cases I want to read. I have a stack of Wall Street Journal articles to read when I have time. There is a stack of CLE fliers and materials I have meant to review. Some years, I have the urge, but not the will to purge. This year was different. It was time. I needed to relieve myself from the stacks of stacks and I really went at it with a passion. I used up my trash can.

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Camp

June 2013
Insurance Coverage
Seminar

September 3, 2013
OACTA Golf Outing

November 14-15, 2013
OACTA Annual
Meeting

**Submit Articles
to the
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Committee:**

[Joe Borchelt](#)

[Tony Brown](#)

Send a Member
Request

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NOMINATE SOMEONE FOR THE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

OACTA is always looking for new nominations for the "Member Spotlight" section of the Update. If you know of anyone who exemplifies both professionalism in the practice of law and has outside activities which would be of interest to the OACTA membership, please submit a

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Young Lawyers Committee Update

Attention young lawyers, new lawyers, law students, and experienced lawyers who just want a refresher course or to sharpen your trial tactics skills - mark your calendars for Friday, April 12, 2013. The Young Lawyers Committee and Trial Tactics Committee are coordinating a Trial Tactics Boot Camp at Capital University Law School. This CLE is a must-attend for all new or young lawyers, and even those lawyers among us who are more experienced! Interactive presentations will be given on various aspects of a trial, including jury selection, opening and closing statements, using expert witnesses, use of exhibits and preserving errors for appeal. If you are interested in being a presenter at this CLE, please contact the Trial Tactics Committee Chair, [Jerry Rolfes](#), or the Young Lawyers Committee Chairs, [Natalie Wais](#) or [Mary Pisciotto](#).

As a reminder, OACTA provides free membership to law students, reduced-dues membership for new attorneys (admitted to practice 5 years or less), and a one-year free membership to all DRI members who have not previously been a member of OACTA. Please encourage any law students and young lawyers you know to join OACTA. Young lawyers are defined as attorneys who have practiced 10 years or less and/or are 40 years old or younger. Feel free to have any potential new member contact [Natalie Wais](#) or [Mary Pisciotto](#) with any questions on how to get involved. Also, if your firm or an organization with which you are involved would like an OACTA Young Lawyers Committee member to attend an event and explain the benefits of being an OACTA member, please let us know.

Natalie

nomination via email to:

Tony Brown
or
Joe Borchelt



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OACTA Is Updating Its Expert Witness Database!

OACTA is working to make the Expert Witness Database a more valuable tool for exclusive use by OACTA members. But to do it, we need the names of your best defense experts.

It's easy. Just take a few minutes and submit the names of any experts you have recently used and would recommend to your fellow members.

[SUBMIT AN EXPERT NOW](#) or [CLICK HERE](#) to download a Expert Witness Submission Form.

Complete the form and return either by email: oacta@assnoffices.com or by fax: 614-221-1989.

OACTA Announces 2013 Law Student Diversity Scholarships

OACTA has developed a Law Student Diversity Scholarship program. Scholarships are open to incoming second and third-year African American, Hispanic, Asian, Pan Asian and Native American students enrolled at Ohio law schools. Incoming second and third-year female law students enrolled at Ohio law schools are also eligible regardless of race or ethnicity. Other criteria for the scholarship include: Academic achievement in law school; Professional interest in civil defense practice; and Service to community and to the cause of diversity.

Up to two (2) scholarships in the amount of \$1,250 each will be awarded to successful applicants. Applicants are required to submit an application, law school transcript and a cover letter addressing the following: academic, personal and professional accomplishments, and why they should be selected as a recipient of the scholarship. Applicants may submit up to three letters of recommendation.

Applications will be available, beginning in January. The completed application and all other requested material must be received by April 19, 2013. Winners will be announced at the in June. Scholarship recipients will be recognized at the OACTA Annual Meeting in

November.

OACTA members (and their firms or companies) are asked to consider making a contribution to this scholarship fund. The 2013 dues renewal forms and membership applications will include an option for a voluntary contribution. As a member of OACTA, we ask that you consider supporting this worthwhile initiative. Thank you, in advance, for your support.

OACTA believes that a diverse membership makes us a stronger organization. We encourage diversity in all aspects of our activities and are committed to nurturing a culture that supports and promotes diversity.

Congratulations to the OACTA Award Recipients

OACTA conducted its annual Awards Luncheon during the Annual Meeting on November 8. Awards were presented to recognize attorneys for their service to OACTA, the profession and the community.



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OACTA Recruit 1 Campaign

December 1, 2012 - March 31, 2013

OACTA members are encouraged to Recruit 1 new member who has never been an OACTA member!

For every one new member recruited, the OACTA member will receive one entry into a grand prize drawing for (a \$500 gift card to the Apple Store sponsored by [Exponent](#))! All OACTA members are welcome to recruit more than 1 new member! There is no limit to the number of entries for the grand prize!

Each new recruit's name will be entered into a grand prize drawing for a complimentary registration to the 2013 OACTA Annual Meeting!

The recruiting member and the recruited member's name, firm and city will be included in the spring issue of The Update.

For a membership application, visit www.oacta.org and be sure to indicate your participation in the Recruit 1 campaign to be eligible for the prizes. The drawings will be held during the (OACTA Young Lawyers Boot Camp on April 12, 2013).

Start your recruitment efforts today!!

Amicus Committee Update

The Amicus Committee Update

By: Benjamin C. Sassé

Amicus Curiae Committee, Chair

What's more exciting this time of year than holiday parties, mistletoe and gifts? Amicus briefs, of course. With the holidays upon us, it's time to review the year that was. Your amicus committee has been busy this year, filing briefs before the Ohio Supreme Court that influenced the law on topics ranging from constitutional law to political subdivision immunity, workplace intentional torts and appellate procedure. In this article, I'll take a quick look back at the cases in which those briefs were filed and let you know what is on the horizon.



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2012 OACTA Annual Meeting Highlights

OACTA's 2012 Annual Meeting occurred November 7 - 9, 2012, in the Gem City, Dayton, Ohio. 90 attendees from 4 states, plus 20 vendor representatives from 17 different companies, attended this year's event. Keynote speakers Professor Thaddeus Hoffmeister of the University of Dayton School of Law, and Dina M. Cox, Esquire, Lewis Wagner LLP, enlightened and entertained the crowd. Professor Hoffmeister, whose research and writing on the subject of juror investigation is gaining national attention, shared his unique knowledge on the subject. Ms. Cox's presentation on "Practical and Thoughtful Tips for Successful Litigation Management" revealed her impressive depth of knowledge and detail about the business of modern civil defense litigation. Both keynote speakers won high praise from attendees for both the scholarship and practicality of their presentations.

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MEMBER NEWS

OACTA UPDATE ANNOUNCES "MEMBER NEWS" SECTION OF QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Have you or the other OACTA members of your firm or practice received a promotion, been recognized for personal or professional

achievement, been appointed to a board, commission, or organization, or received other professional recognition? If so, now is your opportunity to share such recognition or achievement with your fellow OACTA members.

Starting in 2012, the OACTA Update will feature its "Member News" section, which is designed to highlight and inform our membership of the personal and professional accomplishments of our tremendously gifted and talented OACTA members. If you or another member of your firm or practice meet the above criteria, please provide a brief, one-paragraph description to the editors of the Update: Tony Brown (tonyb@bakerfirm.com), or Joe Borchelt (jborchelt@reminger.com).

We look forward to your submissions and the opportunity to share your many accomplishments with our organization.

Congratulations

James R Gallagher, of Gallagher, Gams, Pryor, Tallan & Littrell, in Columbus, Ohio, has been elected president of the Ohio Chapter of The American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) for 2013. The American Board of Trial Advocates is a national association of experienced trial lawyers and judges dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the civil jury trial right provided by the Seventh Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.



Isaac Brant Teaming with Wiles Boyle in Latest Law Firm Merger

Two Columbus firms with deep roots in the community are merging, and both plan to uproot to new offices at Two Miranova Place on the southern edge of Columbus.

Isaac Brant Ledman & Teetor LLP and Wiles Boyle Burkholder & Bringardner Co. LPA will combine operations January 1, 2013, and practice as Isaac Wiles. The merged firm, which will count 57 attorneys and 61 staff members, will take 42,000 square feet on two floors at the Miranova high-rise in June of 2013..

Each firm brings something to the table, but both are strong in practice areas such as litigation, defense work for insurance companies and representing municipal governments. Our attorneys provide counsel for corporations, institutions, individuals and any entity requiring exceptional representation for a great value.

OACTA members abound at both merging firms and include: From Wiles, Boyle, Burkholder & Bringardner, Co.: Brian Kerns, William Benson, Mark Melko, Samuel Pipino and James Wiles. From Isaac Brant Ledman & Teetor: David Jennings, Scyld Anderson, Donald Anspaugh and J. Stephen Teetor.

Nordstrom & Burden Join Garvey Shearer, PSC

Jennifer Nordstrom and Michelle Burden joined Garvey Shearer, PSC, as shareholders in September 2012. They add a combined 28 years of experience handling civil trial work and insurance coverage matters throughout Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana to Garvey Shearer. Garvey Shearer provides legal expertise, value, and high quality services to insurance companies, individuals, and businesses in Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana. In addition to the firm's Northern Kentucky office, Nordstrom opened a new office in Cincinnati, Ohio.

In Memoriam

In Memoriam - John V. Jackson II

OACTA honors the memory of long time member, John V. Jackson II, who passed away on Monday, December 10, 2012. Born on April 11, 1947, John practiced law in Ohio for over 34 years, most recently with Sutter O'Connell, in Cleveland. John was recognized as one of the premier medical malpractice defense attorneys in Ohio. John was appointed for life to the Ohio Eighth Judicial District Conference, was a Fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America, and was an Ohio Super Lawyer. He was an OACTA member since 1998, and served on the Alternative Dispute Resolution and Medical Malpractice Committees. John is survived by his wife, Gail; his daughter, Jodie and son, John E.; as well as his grandchildren, Emma and Breanna. John will be missed by his colleagues at OACTA and throughout Ohio.

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