

# Legal Connections



POWERED BY THE COLUMBUS BAR ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 27, 2019

## INNOVATING HOW OHIO NOTARIZES

**N**otaries Public are responsible for the verification of some of the most important decisions we make in both our personal and professional life. An improper notarization can mean a delay in securing a home loan or a vital legal document. That delay can be expensive.



**ALLISON DESANTIS**  
Ohio Secretary of State

Unfortunately, the Notary Public system in Ohio has proven to be archaic. Imagine 88 different counties in Ohio – all with their own different standards and requirements to obtain a notary public commission. Some require certain educational requirements, some demand a test and some – well, some don't require all that much.

Thanks to efforts made under the leadership of Secretary of State Frank LaRose, that has changed.

Over the past year, a new system, backed by changes in state law, has been developed which will give Ohio

one of the most sophisticated Notary Public systems in the nation. As of Sept. 20, this new system is in effect.

Under the new system, individuals interested in becoming a Notary Public will apply for and renew their commissions directly through the Ohio Secretary of State's office through our new online

portal. This change institutes a single standard with set requirements across all 88 counties.

Of note, this process now includes a background check which will review the applicant's history for a criminal record. After all, Ohioans deserve to have faith that their notary will have both the skills necessary and the strong character required to execute their vital responsibility. That may sound familiar – in Franklin County, the Columbus Bar Association has required background checks of notary applicants for years; now, however, it is a statewide standard.

Now, let's imagine a scenario. A recently married servicewoman is down range, serving her country overseas. Before shipping off, she and her husband had been close to finding a new home to begin their life together. Soon, an agreement is close to being finalized on a mortgage, but because the servicewoman is overseas and unable to have her signature notarized, they miss out on their dream home.

Those days are over. Online notarization is coming to Ohio.

It's 2019. It's time to embrace the technological capabilities in our grasp to provide such an essential service. With online notarization, Ohio notaries will be able to set up a secure, digital video connection with their client. This innovation will do more than just help our military men and women serving overseas, it will become a key component of doing business faster and smarter in Ohio. Ohio is just the sixth state in the nation to embrace online notarization.

*"The requirements for becoming a Notary Public have changed. The CBA is your single point of contact to get your notary commission: [www.cbalaw.org/notary](http://www.cbalaw.org/notary)"*

**Jill Snitcher  
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Executive Director  
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We're bringing electronic notarization to Ohio as well. As business has evolved, digital documents are more popular than ever, and paper documents are becoming less and less prevalent. By allowing electronic documents to be signed in the presence of a notary public, we'll streamline the bureaucracy that can bog down business.

It's all a part of a notarization system on the cusp of innovation. While change can certainly be hard, it will strengthen our state and improve service to our customers – Ohioans. If you have questions, visit [OhioSoS.gov/Notary](http://OhioSoS.gov/Notary), or reach out to our office directly at 614-644-4559.

In addition, current and aspiring traditional notaries can contact the Columbus Bar Association, a single point of contact for the required background checks, mandatory classes and test. For additional information about how to obtain a new or renewing notary commission, along with complete class and testing information, visit [www.cbalaw.org/notary](http://www.cbalaw.org/notary). ■

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## CENTRAL OHIO ATTORNEYS SELECT PREFERRED JUDICIAL CANDIDATES

**T**he Columbus Bar Association's annual Judicial Preference Poll closed for voting on September 20. This information is not intended as an endorsement for candidates but as a service to help voters make an informed decision when voting for judicial candidates.

There are three contested judicial races being decided on November 5 in Franklin County for seats on the Franklin County Municipal Court. Earlier this month, central Ohio attorneys were

asked to indicate the candidate they preferred in each race. Polling ballots were sent to 7,589 attorneys in Franklin County and a total of 641 votes were cast. The poll was conducted online by Simply Voting and a statement included with the ballot requested that attorneys without "sufficient current knowledge or information about the candidates" abstain from voting in the poll.

The Columbus Bar conducts two polls each year in an effort to provide merit-based, non-partisan information to voters about the elected judiciary.

The preference poll of judicial candidates is conducted each fall. A performance poll of sitting judges is conducted each spring. Results of both polls and findings of the Judicial Screening Committee are available at [JudgeTheCandidates.org](http://JudgeTheCandidates.org), our non-partisan voter education portal designed to help voters make informed decisions at the ballot box. ■

Learn more at [judgethecandidates.org](http://judgethecandidates.org)

## EDUCATION & EVENTS

**2019 Collaborative Family Law Symposium**  
Oct. 3 – Oct. 4  
12.0 CLE Hours (2.0 Prof. Conduct)

**Personal Injury Litigation Primer: Depositions**  
Thursday, Oct. 3 • 1:30 – 4:45 p.m.  
3.0 CLE/NLT Hours

**Legal Practice Lab Fall Session Three: Finances**  
Friday, Oct. 4 • 12:30 – 4 p.m.  
3.0 CLE Hours (0.75 Prof. Conduct)

All classes listed are offered at the Columbus Bar Associations offices, 175 S. Third St. Ste. 1100. To register, call 614-221-4112 or enroll online at [www.cbalaw.org](http://www.cbalaw.org).



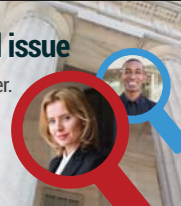
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KNOWS COLUMBUS  
LAWYERS**

## We'll help you find the right lawyer for your legal issue

For over 70 years, we've been helping central Ohioans find the right lawyer. Search for an attorney on our website or call the Lawyer Referral Service.



Columbus Bar Association • 175 S. Third St., Suite 1100 • Columbus, OH 43215  
Search our comprehensive directory of local attorneys at [directory.cbalaw.org](http://directory.cbalaw.org)



## FIND A LAWYER:

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