

75th Annual OHIO YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

April 9 ~ 11, 2026

Judicial



Youth Governor ~ Haley Ross
Youth Chief Justice ~ Zoie Ervin

Jackson YLA



**2026 75th OHIO YLA
YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT**

April 9 ~ 11, 2026

Statehouse ~ Columbus

Case Book Table of Contents	Pages
Officers Welcome and Your 2026 Youth in Government Officers	3 ~ 6
Directory of Participants	7 ~ 12
Statehouse Chambers, Bill Coordinator, and Meeting Rooms	13 ~ 14
Code of Conduct, Use & Care of the Statehouse	15
Student Judiciary Overview	16 ~ 17
Student Supreme Court Procedures	18 ~ 19
Justice's Written Opinion	20
Majority Opinion	21
Officer Responsibilities	21 ~ 22
Definition of Terms	23
Practice Cases	25 ~ 34
Court Docket	35 ~ 37
Case #1	39 ~ 47
Case #2	49 ~ 56
Case #3	57 ~ 66
Case #4	67 ~ 76
Case #5	77 ~ 86
Statehouse Floor Plans	87 ~ 93
Officer Leadership Corps	94 ~ 95
Officer Responsibilities and Qualifications	96 ~ 105
2027 Youth in Government Officer Candidates	106 ~ 108
2027 Elected Officer Nomination Form	109
2027 Officer Applications	111 ~ 116
Leadership Summit Information	117 ~ 118
Cave Lake Center for Community Leadership	119



The Ohio-West Virginia Youth Leadership Association Staff and Board wish to thank our advisors, students, parents and guardians who continue to support YLA programming.

Without the commitment from each of you, we could not continue our mission, expand our reach, or make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve. Because of you, we are strengthening our communities and hope to continue to do so for generations to come.

We hope you enjoyed your time at Ohio Youth in Government and the time spent with your delegation throughout this school year.

Again, we THANK YOU for all you do!

A Special Thank You to Prosource Business Solutions for supplying the binders for our programs.



Serving Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky



Haley Ross
Youth Governor
Jackson, OH

Hello Everyone,

I would like to welcome everyone to the 2026 Ohio Youth in Government! I am super excited to serve as this year's Youth Governor. I hope you all are excited for the weekend ahead. Our YLA officers and staff have been working diligently behind the scenes to guarantee a successful Youth in Government experience. I hope you all gain new skills, make memories, and learn to love YLA and Youth in Government as much as I have over the past 4 years.

As you go into this weekend, remember to keep an open mind, lead with passion, and seek new opportunities. Present your bills and cases with confidence, step out of your comfort zone, and most importantly, have fun.

Because of my experiences at Fall Conference, Camp Horseshoe, and Youth in Government, I have learned skills, made lifelong friends, and became more confident. Youth in Government has provided me with a variety of opportunities that have shaped me into who I am today; I have developed a passion for legislature and debate. Even if law is not a career option for you, use this weekend as an opportunity to network, learn civic engagement, and let your voice be heard. I wish you all the best weekend and for my Senators and House Representatives, I hope to see your bill on my desk!

Best Regards,

Haley Ross



Zoie Ervin

2026 Ohio Youth Chief Justice
Jackson, OH

Hello everyone and welcome to 2026 Youth in Government! I am truly honored to serve as this year's Ohio Youth Chief Justice. Youth In Government has meant so much to me over the past four years, and I'm grateful for the chance to share this weekend with all of you. I know the memories, experiences, and knowledge you will gain here will stay with you long after these three days pass. The Youth Leadership Association has worked incredibly hard for this weekend to be great for all of you, remember to appreciate and thank the people that have made this possible for us. Whether this is your first year at YIG or your last, I hope you will have as much fun as I have the past four years. The friendships you build, memories you make, and experiences you gain through Camp Horseshoe, Fall Conference, and Youth in Government will truly shape you and your future in meaningful ways. No matter how much experience you have here, remember it is okay to be nervous. As you present your bills and argue your cases remember to be confident in what you are saying and the skills you have. In the end, you should all be proud of yourself, for some stepping out of your comfort zone and trying something new and for others practicing familiar skills and gaining more experience. Throughout YIG I have gained confidence, learned more about government, and gained so many relationships. I will forever cherish the memories made at YIG, I hope you all do as well. As our weekend begins, I urge everyone no matter your position to ask questions, initiate conversations, meet new people, and enjoy your time here. YIG is only for three days, so make sure you enjoy every minute and use your time wisely. I hope all of you have an amazing weekend, and once again, welcome to 2026 Youth in Government!

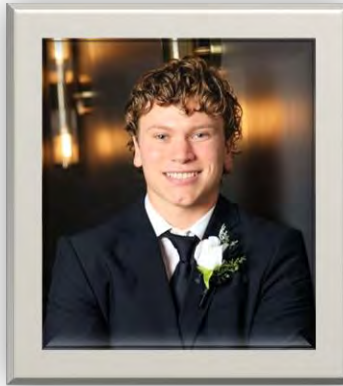
Sincerely,
Zoie Ervin

2026 Ohio Youth Chief Justice

2026 Youth in Government Officers



Haley Ross
Youth Governor
Jackson



Beau Stephens
Lt. Governor
South Webster



Zoie Ervin
Youth Chief Justice
Jackson



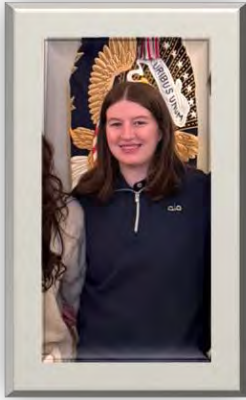
Sekhar Timsina
Speaker of the House
Butler Co.



Deegan Evans
House Clerk
Jackson



Will Bernard
House Chaplain
Wellington



Emerson Braunsdorf
President of the Senate
Wellington



Isabella Cios
Senate Clerk
Wellington



Lucy Allen
Senate Chaplain
Wellington



Kollier Fulton
Associate Justice
Jackson



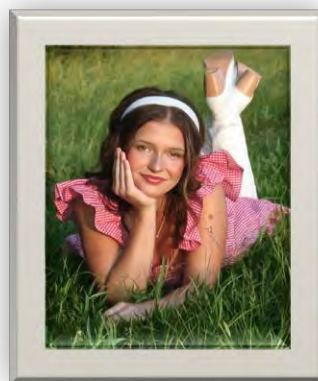
Uche Uwaezuoke
Governor's Cabinet
Butler Co.



Drew Neff
Governor's Cabinet
Jackson



Tayler Williams
Governor's Cabinet
Jackson



Sidney Keslar
Governor's Cabinet
South Webster

2026 OHIO YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT DIRECTORY

EXECUTIVE

NAME	TITLE	DELEGATION
Lucy Allen	Senate Chaplain	Wellington
Will Bernard	House Chaplain	Wellington
Emerson Braunsdorf	Senate President	Wellington
Isabella Cios	Senate Clerk	Wellington
Zoie Ervin	Youth Chief Justice	Jackson
Deegan Evans	House Clerk	Jackson
Kollier Fulton	Associate Justice	Jackson
Sidney Keslar	Governor's Cabinet	South Webster
Drew Neff	Governor's Cabinet	Jackson
Haley Ross	Youth Governor	Jackson
Beau Stephens	Lt. Governor	South Webster
Sekhar Timsina	Speaker of the House	Butler County
Uchenna Uwaezuoke	Governor's Cabinet	Butler County
Taylor Williams	Governor's Cabinet	Jackson

JUDICIAL

NAME	DELEGATION
Isabella Burnette	Jackson
Addyson Dailey	Jackson
Elizabeth Erwin	Jackson
Harley Harrison	Jackson
Addison Hickey	Jackson
Grant Massie	Jackson
Jayce Moore	Jackson
Landyn Oglesbee	Jackson
Avery Robles	Jackson
Tate Rosler	Jackson
Corbyn Smalley	Jackson
Jordan Swackhammer	Jackson
Dylan Triplett	Jackson
Malaki Wimer	Jackson

LEGISLATIVE

NAME	DELGATION	HEARD IN	MEMBER OF	SEAT
Drew Aills	Washington	H 04	H 02	H 90
Ava Aldridge	Butler County	H 04	H 01	H 29
Ayaan Amir	Wellington	S 03	S 01	S 13
Abbott Arthur	Wellington	H 01	H 03	H 43
Ahmad Awan	Wellington	H 03	H 01	H 83
Ameer Awan	Wellington	H 03	H 01	H 84
Anny Bailey	South Webster	S 02	S 01	S 26
Mansi Bansal	Wellington	H 01	H 05	H 19
Zac Barton	Wellington	S 02	S 01	S 11
Henry Becker	Wellington	H 05	H 03	H 82
Addalyn Bennett	South Webster	H 01	H 04	H 70
Connor Bentley	South Webster	S 03	S 01	S 24
Dottie Blackburn	Wellington	S 03	S 02	S 08
Jayna Boateng	Wellington	H 05	H 01	H 12
Akira Bohm	Wellington	H 05	H 04	H 33
Phoebe Bong	Wellington	H 03	H 05	H 58
Kobi Braden	Jackson	S 02	S 03	S 27 A
Reid Braswell	Wellington	H 03	H 04	H 23
Eli Browning	Jackson	S 02	S 01	Sen I
Alison Cano-Salgado	Wellington	H 01	H 05	H 20
Eli Cellino	Wellington	H 03	H 01	H 85
Pralad Chhetri	Butler County	S 01	S 02	S 30 A
Joowon Chong	Wellington	H 01	H 02	H 03
Rohan Chuwan	Butler County	S 01	S 02	S 30 B
Alice Clark	Wellington	H 05	H 04	H 34
Elizabeth Cooke	Wellington	S 03	S 01	S 06
Sofia Correa-Saliceti	Wellington	H 01	H 04	H 18
Lorenzo Corso	Wellington	S 02	S 03	S 02
Alivia Dawson	Washington	H 02	H 05	H 72
Lily Dawson	Washington	H 02	H 05	H 73
Nathaniel Dean	South Webster	H 01	H 02	H 41
Zakariya Djafi	Wellington	H 02	H 04	H 46
Elliott Douthett	Jackson	S 03	S 02	S 33 A
Marshall Douthett	Jackson	S 03	S 02	S 33 B
Margot Dunn	Wellington	S 01	S 02	S 21
Micah Ehlers	Wellington	S 01	S 03	S 16
Jenna Eichenlaub	South Webster	H 01	H 04	H 71

LEGISLATIVE - CONTINUED

NAME	DELGATION	HEARD IN	MEMBER OF	SEAT
Natalee Eskridge	South Webster	S 02	S 01	S 26
Emma Fling	Wellington	S 03	S 01	S 05
Olivia Friedman	Wellington	S 01	S 02	S 20
John Gavazzi	Wellington	H 04	H 03	H 26
Solomon Graham	Wellington	H 05	H 03	H 81
Leonard Gross	Wellington	S 01	S 02	Sen J
Stefan GUO	Wellington	H 01	H 02	H 96
Iris Hambach	Wellington	S 01	S 02	S 19
Lily Hashem	Wellington	H 04	H 01	H 64
Ava Henderson	Wellington	H 05	H 01	H 11
Makenna Henry	Wellington	S 02	S 03	S 03
Steven Huang	Wellington	H 02	H 01	H 22
Oscar Humbert	Wellington	S 02	S 01	S 17 A
Tommy Jones	Wellington	S 02	S 03	S 22 A
Adama Kane	Wellington	S 03	S 01	S 31
Cristian Kavishe	Wellington	H 04	H 02	H 68
Broden Keller	Washington	H 04	H 02	H 91
Henry Kent	Wellington	H 01	H 03	H 44
Aayzah Khan	Wellington	S 02	S 03	S 04
Cameron Kilgour	Jackson	H02	H 05	H 40
Hanna Kilgren	Wellington	S 01	S 03	S 12 A
Cameron King	Wellington	S 02	S 01	S 10
Thomas Kinker	South Webster	H 01	H 02	H 42
Ari Kirsner	Wellington	H 02	H 03	H 04
Evren Kocak	Wellington	H 02	H 03	H 05
Avril Koehler	Wellington	S 01	S 02	S 21
Connor Kuttrus	Wellington	H 02	H 05	H 15
Mateo Leahy	Wellington	S 03	S 01	S 14
Naomi Livits	Wellington	H 02	H 05	H 16
Hunter Long	Jackson	H 02	H 04	H 87
Jack Mahaffey	Wellington	S 02	S 03	S 22 B
Maddie Marsh	Wellington	H 01	H 04	H 17
Griffin Martin	Wellington	H 04	H 05	H 37
Stella Martin	Wellington	H 03	H 04	H 07
Amanda Martinez	Wellington	S 01	S 03	S 12 B
William May	Jackson	H 02	H 04	H 86
Izaiah McMahon	South Webster	S 03	S 01	S 23

NAME	DELGATION	HEARD IN	MEMBER OF	SEAT
Tayla Mendoza	Western	H 01	H 05	H 89
Maelyn Mercer	Western	H 03	H 01	H 52
Anna Lea Merl	Wellington	H 05	H 02	H 27
Ethan Miller	Wellington	S 03	S 02	S 09 A
Natalie Moore	Wellington	H 03	H 04	H 08
Madison Mullen	South Webster	H 05	H 02	H 80
Will Myers	Wellington	H 01	H 02	H 02
Evan Newman	Jackson	S 02	S 03	S 27 B
Zhinan Ni	Wellington	S 03	S 02	S 25 A
Emmah Nichols	Western	H 01	H 05	H 88
Samson Njoroge	Wellington	H 02	H 03	H 06
Zakiya Obayuwana	Wellington	H 02	H 03	H 57
Zalika Obayuwana	Wellington	H 02	H 03	H 56
Finley O'Carroll	Wellington	H 02	H 04	H 45
Perry Oman	Wellington	H 04	H 03	H 25
Rebecca Oquendo	Wellington	H 01	H 04	H 93
Lincoln Otcasek	Wellington	H 04	H 03	H 54
Sophia Patel	Wellington	H 05	H 04	H 35
Avery Peterson	Wellington	S 02	S 01	S 17 B
Ben Peterson	Wellington	S 02	S 01	S 18 A
Phinneas Pickett	Wellington	H 02	H 01	H 21
Rio Price	Wellington	H 03	H 05	H 47
Evan Quick	Wellington	H 01	H 02	H 97
Annika Raghunathan	Wellington	H 03	H 05	H 59
Coleton Raver	Wellington	H 05	H 03	H 31
Jackson Remley	Wellington	H 01	H 02	H 01
Will Rethman	Wellington	S 01	S 03	S 29 A
Taj Ruegsegger	Wellington	H 04	H 01	H 65
Parker Rufus	Wellington	H 05	H 03	H 32
Jude Rupp	Wellington	S 01	S 03	S 29 B
Lillian Schrader	Wellington	H 04	H 01	H 66
Gabe Schroeder	Wellington	H 01	H 02	H 95
Annie Shen	Wellington	H 04	H 05	H 10
Sayf Shihab	Wellington	S 01	S 02	Sen K
Dana Shores	Butler County	H 04	H 01	H 13
Dea Singh	Wellington	S 03	S 02	S 07
Raylee Slack	South Webster	H 03	H 02	H 14

NAME	DELGATION	HEARD IN	MEMBER OF	SEAT
Clementine Smith	Wellington	S 03	S 02	S 25 B
Maxwell Smith	Wellington	H 04	H 03	H 55
Jay Sodhi	Wellington	H 03	H 04	H 24
Leah Soskin	Wellington	S 03	S 01	S 32
Anna Spicer	Wellington	H 04	H 05	H 09
Shubhangi Srishti	Butler County	H 05	H 03	H 63
Andrew Stern	Wellington	H 05	H 03	H 30
Sasha Swarhout	Wellington	H 05	H 01	H 61
Audrey Thielman	Wellington	H 01	H 04	H 94
Jacob Thomas	Wellington	S 03	S 02	S 09 B
Caroline Thompson	Wellington	H 03	H 01	H 38
Paige Thompson	Wellington	H 03	H 01	H 39
Taran Tien	Wellington	S 02	S 01	S 18 B
Atticus Trubilowicz	Wellington	S 01	S 02	S 01
Marla Tubuo	Wellington	H 05	H 01	H 62
Genevieve VanDixhorn	Wellington	S 01	S 03	S 15
Ranvir Varma	Wellington	H 03	H 05	H 48
Yuvraj Varma	Wellington	S 01	S 03	S 28
Brayden Weaver	Wellington	H 04	H 05	H 36
Madeline Weaver	Wellington	H 05	H 02	H 28
Lainey Williams	South Webster	H 05	H 02	H 79
Lexi Williams	Western	H 03	H 01	H 53
Liam Withrow	Wellington	H 04	H 02	H 69

LOBBYISTS

NAME	DELEGATION
Lee Chen Yo	South Webster
Leevi Fite	Western
Carter Moore	Western
Kaden Perkins	South Webster
Caleb Shores	Butler County
Chase Ware	Western

PRESS

NAME	TITLE	DELEGATION
Jaelyn Shawkey	Press	Jackson
Eden Smith	Press Secretary	South Webster
Emma Stone	Press Editor	South Webster
Sophie Williams	Press	Jackson

PAGES

When you are not paging for your committee, you are to page for your assigned Chamber including during floor sessions and elections.

NAME	DELEGATION	ASSIGNMENT
Mason Blackburn	Western	HC 02 & House Chamber
Donovan Farley	Western	HC 03 & House Chamber
Caleb Gilbert	Western	HC 05 & House Chamber
Niah Knapp	Western	SC 01 & Senate Chamber
Hadaleigh Pepper	South Webster	HC 04 & House Chamber
Dylan Price	Western	HC 01 & House Chamber
Xander Thurman	Western	SC 02 & Senate Chamber
Adria Yll	Western	SC 03 & Senate Chamber

ADVISORS

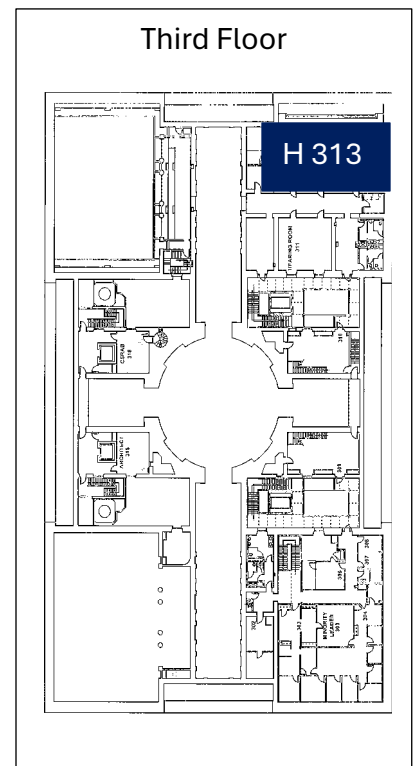
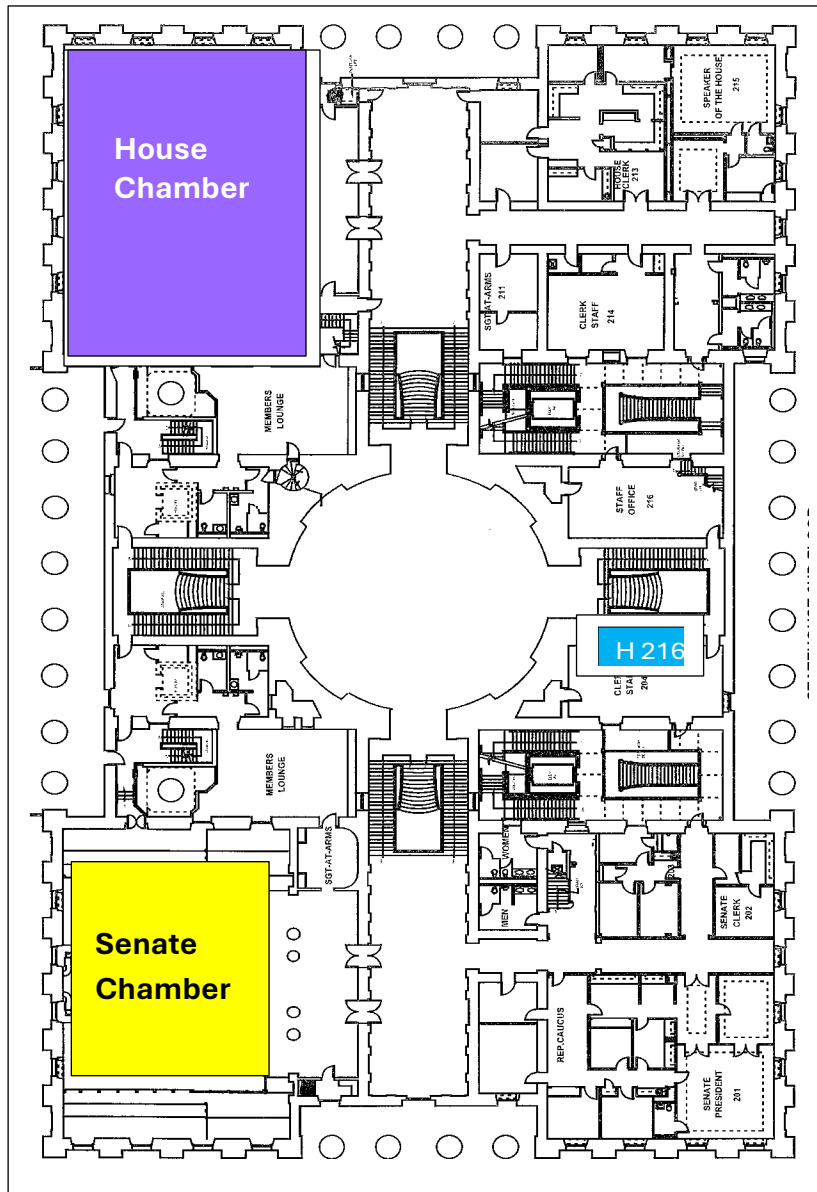
NAME	DELEGATION	ASSIGNMENT
Jackie Butler	Wellington	House Committee 2
Erin Cornett	Wellington	Senate Chamber & Comm 1
Rebecca Fite	Western	Pages & Lobbyists
Nick Geruntino	Washington	House Chamber
Cindy Green	Jackson	Court Advisor
Jessica Harper	Jackson	Senate Committee 3
Stephen Hightower	Butler County	Youth Governor & Cabinet
Belon Hill	Butler County	Press
Sara Hunt	Western	House Committee 5
Cyndy Hykes	South Webster	House Committee 4
Victoria Lirio	Wellington	House Committee 3
Rishi Raghunathan	Wellington	Senate Committee 2
DeAnna Shores	Butler County	House Committee 1

YLA STAFF

David "Coop" Cooper	Program & Camp Horseshoe
David King	YLA Director
Emma Markins	Support Lead & Summer Program Director
Alicia Ridenour	Fiscal Officer & Program Coordinator

Statehouse Chambers, Bill Coordinator, Meeting Rooms

Bill Coordinator	House 216
Youth Governor	House 313 House Finance Hearing Room
House Chamber	2 nd Floor
Senate Chamber	2 nd Floor



The following rooms are on the 1st Floor of the House side of the Statehouse

House Committee 1	House 116	Benjamin Harrison Hearing Room
House Committee 2	House 121	William McKinley Hearing Room
House Committee 3	House 122	William Howard Taft Hearing Room
House Committee 4	House 113	William B. Harrison Hearing Room
House Committee 5	House 114	Rutherford B. Hayes
Lobbyist	House 115	James A. Garfield Hearing Room
Page	House 115	James A. Garfield Hearing Room
Press	House 119	Conference Room

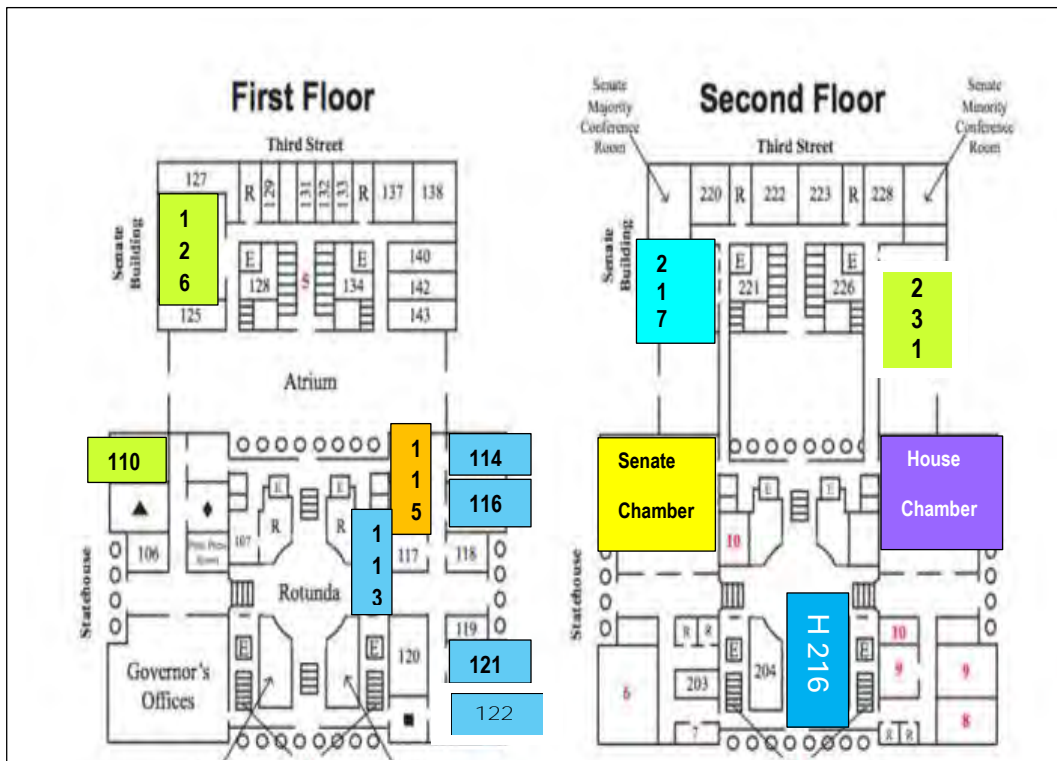
First Floor Senate side of the Statehouse

Senate Committee 1	Senate 110	Ulysses S. Grant Hearing Room
Senate Committee 2	Senate 126	Finan Hearing Room

Second Floor Senate side of the Statehouse

Senate Committee 3	Senate 231	South Hearing Room
---------------------------	-------------------	--------------------

Judicial	Senate 217	North Hearing Room
Judicial Deliberation	North Conference Room	



Code of Conduct: YLA Family of Programs

Participants – youth and adults - in YLA programs demonstrate responsibility and the highest levels of personal and group character. Due to that, few rules are required.

In general, our rules are summarized in these three (3) points:

1. Treat others as one wants to be treated.
2. Do not fail to do something that would help others, make the place we are using cleaner, safer, and a better experience for all.
3. Do not do anything that hurts or could potentially harm another person, place, or thing.

Some specifics may be helpful –

1. Attend all sessions of the program;
2. Wear name badges as called for by the program;
3. Names of anyone absent from a session are referred to the program director and the appropriate advisor;
4. Adult sponsors and chaperones are responsible for the supervision of their Delegation;
5. ABSOLUTELY NO FOOD, DRINK, or GUM are permitted in the House, Senate, Committee rooms, Supreme Court, or other government facilities used at YG;
6. Not permitted at YLA programs are tobacco, alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, or weapons;
7. There is no coed visiting in housing rooms;
8. All delegates are in their own room, observe quiet hours at the time indicated by the curfew and will not leave their room until the end of curfew;
9. Room changes are not made unless made by YLA staff;
10. Participants do not invite or receive visitors unless approved by the Advisor and YLA staff. Visitors, alumni, etc. are not permitted in the lodging facility guest sleeping rooms at any time. Guests are restricted to lobbies and visitor areas.

Use & Care of the Statehouse/Capitol

Use of the Statehouse/Capitol requires the highest level of care and respect for the facility, its furnishings, equipment and its traditions. Each student participant and adult is to exercise the highest level of individual responsibility for the Statehouse/Capitol and to hold everyone else to that same level of responsibility.

No chewing gum in the Statehouse/Capitol.

No food, snacks, candy or drinks (including water bottles) in any Statehouse/Capitol room.

The desks, chairs and other furniture in the Senate and House are easily scratched or marred. Use deliberate caution in placing items on the desk or lifting things off. Do not slide anything **as they easily can scratch the finish. Do not "toss" books, purses, brief cases or anything on a desk** as that can easily damage the finish of the desk. Staples are a problem too. Do not put a stapler on a desktop. *Do not write on any single sheet of paper on a desk as the pencil/pen can leave an impression on the desk finish.*

Do not sit or lean on any desktop or desk.

Check the desk, chair, tables, and rooms one is using. Report any damage observed to the Advisor in that room and/or YG Staff. Advisors pass on damage reports in writing to YG Staff.

Extend to all members of the Senate and House of Representatives/Delegates as well as to all Statehouse/Capitol staff every courtesy including *Thank you*.

Clean up! Straighten up any room one uses. Any papers one no longer wants, put in trash can. Leave every room clean.

Thank you for all your efforts to follow these guidelines.

Student Judiciary Overview

The Supreme Court considers an appeal of a lower court decision. The presiding officer of the Supreme Court is the Chief Justice.

	Ohio	West Virginia
Official Name	<i>Supreme Court of Ohio</i>	<i>West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals</i>
Number of Justices	7	5
Length of Term	<i>6 years</i>	<i>12 years</i>

- Decisions of the Supreme Court are a majority vote of the Justices. These decisions are the final word.
- A case appealed to the Supreme Court is an appeal only on errors claimed to have occurred in the local trial. It is NOT a retrial of the local trial.
- The authority of the Supreme Court comes from the individual state's Constitution.
- The appellant is appealing the decision of a lower court.
- The appellee is supporting the decision of the lower court.
- The Brief summarizes the validity or lack of validity of the lower court's decision. An Assignment of Errors lists the mistake(s) that either the Judge or Jury made in lower court decision.
- Arguments made in an appeal describe laws or precedent cases that support the argument.
- The concluding presentation to the Supreme Court summarizes arguments in the appeal and a conclusion the Supreme Court should reach.



Writing our Appeal

When you register as a Judicial Delegate through the Participation Agreement, your advisor will receive the sample case for each judicial team. Our program picks up at the conclusion of the local trial. Students will choose a side to represent. The losing side (Appellant) will appeal the decision of the lower court and the winning side (Appellee) will be asking the Supreme Court to uphold the existing decision of the lower court.

The appeal IS NOT A RETRIAL, but rather is an opportunity to insure that justice is served in regard to the process of the local trial. At the appeal hearing, you will argue points of law. It is the Appellant's responsibility to research precedent cases and other laws that would show error in the local trial verdict.

The Assignment of Errors lists the Appellant's reasons the case is being appealed to the Supreme Court. The appellants will argue that these errors in the lower court trial, if corrected, could have changed the outcome of the lower court's verdict. Therefore, they appeal. Students may research previous cases at college or local law libraries or through the LEXUS/NEXUS computer system. Local attorneys are also excellent resources.

On the other side, the Appellees seek to support the lower court's verdict.

Your written brief should be between 2-6 pages in length. This is your first impression on the justices and should concisely and logically progress through your arguments to convince the Justices of your Conclusion.

When you appear before the Supreme Court in April, you will have additional time for Oral Arguments. Each side will have 10 minutes (approximately 5 minutes per attorney) to argue your side of the case. Your opponents will also have ten minutes. It is your responsibility to decide how you will split the time with your partner – but, both attorneys must share in the presentation. The appellants may reserve a portion of their time for rebuttal, if desired.

Purpose and Contents of a Brief

The purpose of the Brief is to summarize the validity or lack of validity of the Lower Court's decision. Unless otherwise noted, the format for the brief is as follows: Paper size – 8.5" x 11" (one side only, DO NOT staple and remember to sign your name), Margins – 1", single spaced (except between sections -see sample brief), Type size – 10 or 12 point. There must be one (1) booklet and it must contain the following:

1 COVER PAGE: The Cover Page has the following information:
Names and Positions of both pairs of Youth Attorneys

Name of the Case

1 STATEMENT OF FACTS Must be agreed upon by both sets of Youth Attorneys

1 APPELLANT'S BRIEF Written by the Youth Attorneys that LOST the local trial. Must be between 2 – 6 pages. Each brief contains:

Assignment of Errors – the problem that either the Judge or Jury made in their Lower Court decision.

Arguments – Laws and/or precedent cases that support your Assignment of Errors.

Conclusion – A closing summary of the case and a conclusion that the Model Supreme Court should overturn the Lower Court's decision.

1 APPELLEE'S BRIEF Written by the Youth Attorneys that WON the local trial. Must be between 2 – 6 pages. Each brief contains:

Arguments – Laws or precedent cases that support the Lower Court's decision.

Conclusion – Summary of arguments in the case and a conclusion that the Model Supreme Court should therefore uphold the Lower Court's decision.

ALL OF THIS CONSTITUTES ONE BOOKLET. THE BOOKLET IS TO BE ASSEMBLED IN THE ORDER LISTED AND STAPLED ONCE IN THE UPPER LEFT CORNER. EIGHTEEN (18) COPIES OF THE BOOKLET ARE TO BE ASSEMBLED AND SUBMITTED TO THE YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT OFFICE BY THE DEADLINE (OHIO-JAN 28 • WV – FEB 10).

Case Rating

All cases submitted will be rated for position on the docket of the Student Supreme Court. Only those cases that are received in the Youth in Government office by the due date will be rated.

Student Supreme Court Procedures

When the Justices enter, everyone rises. The Marshal (Ohio) or Clerk (WV) calls the Court to order.

OHIO

All Rise. . .The Honorable Chief Justice and Justices of the Supreme Court of Ohio Once they have reached their seats, continue with...)
Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Hear Ye! The Supreme Court of Ohio is Now in Open Session Pursuant to Adjournment. . .

WEST VIRGINIA

All Rise. . .OYEZ! OYEZ! The Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court of West Virginia, the Honorable Chief Justice _____, presiding. Silence is now commanded under penalty of fine or imprisonment, while the Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia are now sitting. All those having motions to make or appeals to prosecute, come forward and you shall be heard. GOD SAVE THIS STATE AND THIS HONORABLE COURT.

The Chief Justice will direct the audience to be seated.

The Chief Justice then calls on the Appellant attorneys. The first attorney for the Appellant informs the Marshal/Clerk whether or not there will be a rebuttal and if so, how much time is to be reserved. The Appellant attorneys then present their argument. The reasoning in their argument is that the verdict of the lower court was incorrect because _____. (Each side has 10 minutes – approximately 5 minutes per attorney in which to present their case.)

The Appellee's attorneys then present their argument. The reasoning in their argument is that the verdict of the lower court was correct and the Appellant is incorrect because _____.

The Appellant's attorneys then have an opportunity for rebuttal after the Appellee's attorney's presentation. Following this, the Chief Justice adjourns the Court to decide the Appeal. The reversal of the lower court's decision requires at least a majority vote for reversal. When directed by the Chief Justice, the Marshal will call the Court to adjournment.

OHIO

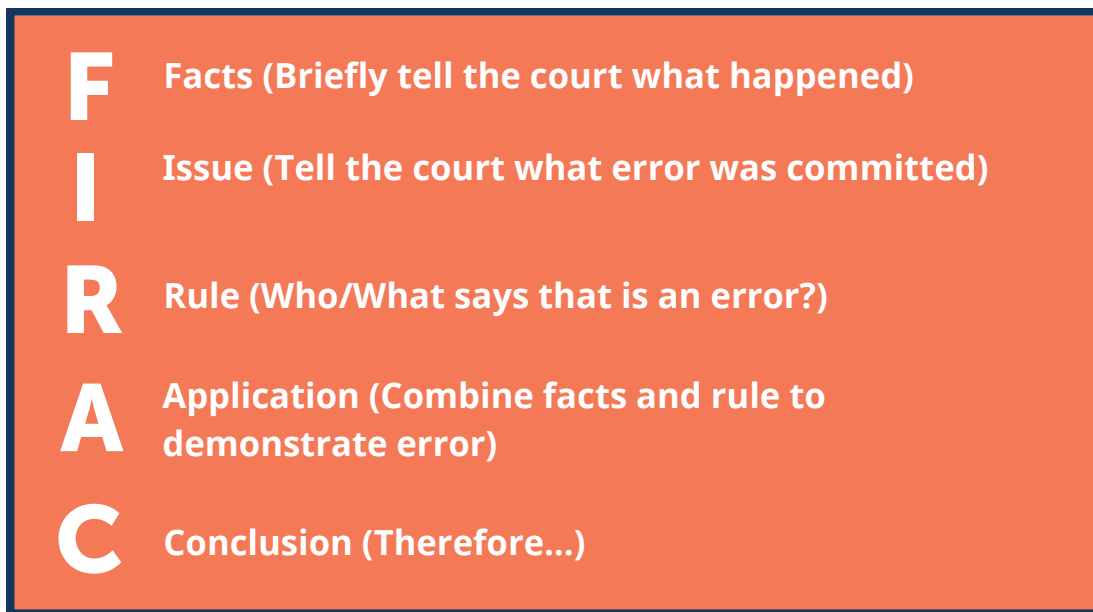
All Rise. . .Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Hear Ye! This Open Session of the Honorable Supreme Court of Ohio Now Stands Adjourned. (After the last Justice is off the Bench, strike the gavel once.)

WEST VIRGINIA

All Rise. . .Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Hear Ye! This Open Session of the Honorable Supreme Court of West Virginia Now Stands Adjourned. (After the last Justice is off the Bench, strike the gavel once.)

Time organization is a very important part of your appeal. The job of the Supreme Court Marshal/Clerk is to time the oral presentation of each attorney – informing the attorney when one minute is left in the allotted time and when the time is up. Both sets of attorneys need to decide how much time each attorney on their side will take. Also, attorneys for the Appellant must decide how much time to reserve for rebuttal.

Attorneys will prepare the majority of their oral arguments before reaching Youth in Government. Time at Youth in Government will be used to sharpen those arguments. A simple method to use to organize a brief or an oral argument is the **FIRAC method**.



F Facts (Briefly tell the court what happened)

I Issue (Tell the court what error was committed)

R Rule (Who/What says that is an error?)

A Application (Combine facts and rule to demonstrate error)

C Conclusion (Therefore...)

Attorneys should be prepared to be interrupted by questions from the Justices. In organizing an oral presentation, an attorney should be prepared to speak persuasively for the full amount of time, but the attorney should be flexible enough to rearrange their presentation at the podium in order to cover all of the important points, in addition to answering questions from the Justices.

The attorneys start their presentation with the statement May it please the court. My name is (state your name) and I am the attorney for or representing (state your client's name)

Always keep your perspective. Act zealously for your client, but remember you are an officer of the court.

You are to attend all judicial program events. They are designed to give you the opportunity to learn more about our judicial system. You will also watch the appeals of other students. Much can be learned by watching others.

Your case will be put on a calendar and assigned a time to be heard by the Model Supreme Court. Attorneys for the local trial must be the same ones to present the case at the Model Supreme Court.

Justice's Written Opinions

The Opinion is the written decision of the Supreme Court. It is the official document that records for history the decision and all of the relevant circumstances that influenced that decision. The opinions are reviewed by each Justice sitting on the case and are not disclosed to other participants until they are officially "released" during the closing session.

During deliberation, immediately following the case, you will have an opportunity to discuss and argue the points of law addressed in the case. One or more Justices will volunteer to write the opinion for the majority. The opinion is given to each Justice to study and accept. If it is accepted, the Justice will sign the opinion and it is passed on as the opinion of the court. If not, a concurring opinion may be written (same result, but with a different line of reasoning).

Those who do not agree with the Majority Opinion summarize their views in the Dissenting Opinion. All of the opinions are presented to the public, but only the majority opinion affects the parties involved in the case.

Opinions will be written on standard legal paper (or forms provided by the Court Coordinator). The opinion will then be submitted to the Chief Justice or Associate Justices assigned to the case. Each opinion must contain a statement defining the reasons for the verdict and a narrative of why those reasons were chosen.

Youth in Government Supreme Court Majority Opinion

_____ Case Number
_____ All Justices who agree with this
_____ Majority opinion are to sign their
_____ Names to the left
_____ Opinions will be announced on
_____ Saturday Morning. Until then,
_____ The decisions of the Court are not
_____ to be discussed with anyone.

We the justices of the Supreme Court of Ohio in the case of Bennett v. Sims unanimously find that the lower court erred in permitting summary judgment. We found that a number of facts remained contested even though the lower court granted summary judgment. Following the precedence found in McKinney V. Hartz and Restle Realtor, Inc. we find that a five (5) year old could be held in violation of Ohio trespassing laws. However, following the guidelines set down in Pennsylvania Co. v. Legendary we find the mother not to be held in violation when the role of a rescuer is applied. The care of the pool was also in gross violation of not only local ordinances but state laws. Its negligence didn't fulfill the duty of care owed to the neighbors and community. For the aforementioned particulars we affirm the lower court's decision.

Youth in Government Supreme Court Majority Opinion

_____ Case Number

_____ All Justices who agree with this

_____ Majority opinion are to sign their

_____ Names to the left

_____ Opinions will be announced on

_____ Saturday Morning. Until then,

_____ The decisions of the Court are not

_____ to be discussed with anyone.

(If there is a dissenting opinion among the Justices, this is the form that would be used. In the case of Bennett v. Sims a minority opinion was not necessary).

Officer Responsibility

Officers are elected at Youth in Government to serve through the next year's program. Their service throughout the year provides student leadership to the program, helps strengthen the program for everyone, and better prepares officers for their duties during the Student Legislature/Court.

Officers put Youth in Government first. They must have and take the time required to effectively serve the program.

In addition to Youth in Government at the Statehouse/Capitol, the officers "do their jobs" at the annual Sr. Leadership-Service Conference in June at Horseshoe, the Fall Program Conference in November and the February Officer/Committee Chair Training – Bill and Case Rating Session.

Additional responsibilities/qualifications include:

Chief Justice

- Appoint qualified Associate Justices as needed,
- Serve on the Youth in Government Committee,
- Study all cases before the Student Supreme Court,
- At Youth in Government
 - Present an opening address,
 - Give a closing summary of the Supreme Court,
 - Announce the new youth Chief Justice,
 - Assist Judicial Coordinator as necessary.

Associate Justices

- Study all cases before the Student Supreme Court,
- Preside over cases assigned to you by the Chief Justice and summarize the opinions of the panel

Elections and Appointments for State Office Nominations

Each delegation may nominate one (1) candidate for Chief Justice. Nominations are due and to be submitted on the Officer Candidate Form by 5 pm at Youth in Government Office on Friday. Nominees must meet the qualifications listed for their office.

Officer Qualifications

Qualifications common to the office of Chief Justice include:

1. One year's experience in Youth in Government as a judicial delegate. Unlike other elected offices in Youth in Government, Chief Justice Candidates may count their current year toward this requirement.
2. Will attend the Leadership-Summit Camp at Horseshoe in June, the Officer Training/Bill Rating session in February, Fall Conference in November and the Youth in Government program at the Statehouse/Capitol.
3. Positive group work skills and attitudes that help all others succeed.
4. Effective public speaking and presentation skills.
5. Understands the Youth in Government procedure and is able to implement it.
6. Has leadership skills appropriate to the purpose of Youth in Government. Understands, supports, and practices the values of leadership through service promoted by YLA.

Election Procedure at Youth in Government

Candidates demonstrate their ability to carry out the responsibilities of the position they seek by "doing" what the office requires. There is no campaign, campaign speech, or campaign material.

Having demonstrated their effectiveness to their peers throughout the weekend, Chief Justice Candidates will have 3 minutes to summarize their vision of the Judicial Program to the Student Supreme Court participants. The candidate receiving the majority of votes is declared the winner. Only Judicial delegates vote for the Chief Justice.

Associate Justices

Associate Justices are appointed by the Chief Justice from those qualified applicants who submit their application no later than one week after Youth in Government.

Definition of Terms

Appellant [uh-pel-ent] – The party who loses the local trial and appeals to the Supreme Court.

Appellee [a-puh-lee] – The party who won the local trial and responds to the appeal of the appellant.

Argument - The persuasive reasoning by the attorney to the deciding body (judge or jury) stating why the case should be decided in favor of his client. Arguments, whether oral or written, should present clear thinking and logical statements that lead to only one conclusion.

Bailiff - The officer of a trial court who opens, recesses, reconvenes and closes each session of the court.

Bill of Exception -The verbatim transcript of everything that is said at the local trial relevant to the issues being appealed.

Brief - The formal written statement prepared by both parties of an appeal listing the errors (appellants only), their arguments and conclusions.

Chief Justice - The presiding Justice of the Supreme Court.

Conclusion - Making a definite statement within your facts. The logical end to a line of reasoning.

Court Reporter - The officer of the court who records everything said by everyone at each session of the court.

Damages - In most cases, the reward received by the plaintiffs, if they win.

Defendant - The party being charged with the alleged wrongdoing.

Dissenting Opinion - The written decision of the judge(s) in the minority on a case.

Expert witness - A witness who, because of their knowledge or experience, can offer technical expertise to the court within their area or profession.

Evidence - Information obtained by testimony of witnesses or introduction of objects or documents at a trial which the jury considers in reaching its verdict.

Judge - The one who presides at a trial and, if there is no jury, also decides the case.

Jury (Panel) - A group of citizens who hear the evidence at trial and decide disputed questions of fact (verdict). The group is known as a panel during the voir dire and after taking the oath as jurors, is known as the jury.

Justice - The formal name given to a Judge of the Supreme Court.

Marshal - The officer of a trial court who opens, recesses, reconvenes, and closes each session of the court.

Narrative Bill of Exceptions - A written statement of the facts according to testimony at the local trial agreed upon by opposing Attorneys. This is used in lieu of the Bill of Exceptions when a court reporter is not present.

Notice of Appeal - Statement asking for a reversal of the lower court's judgment.

Objection - Any oral statement to the judge voiced by an attorney during trial showing why a certain question or answer constitutes improper evidence.

Opinion - The written decision of the judge or judges, supported by their reasoning, of a case which has been argued on appeal.

Peremptory Challenge - Prerogative of counsel to object to a member of the panel during voir dire.

Ohio Youth in Government



Practice Cases

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Heather Wallace (“Heather”), the appellant appeals from a judgment of the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas, Probate Division, which denied her motion to withdraw her consent to the adoption of her son, Brandon Marvin Wallace (“Brandon”).

Brandon was born on June 15, 2019, shortly after Heather's eighteenth birthday and her graduation from high school. During her pregnancy, Heather was confused about what to do when her baby was born and considered an adoption through Catholic Social Services. At the end of her pregnancy, she opted against an adoption through Catholic Social Services. The first few weeks after Brandon was born were difficult for Heather, however, and by the Fourth of July, she was apparently feeling overwhelmed. At a family gathering on the Fourth, Heather's aunt, Linda Jackson, offered to care for Brandon for awhile. Heather agreed, and both she and her mother, Beth Wallace, with whom she lived, seemed relieved by the arrangement. Linda's husband, Bill Jackson, was Beth's brother. The Jacksons had one biological child but had decided that it was too risky to have any more children of their own because Mrs. Jackson suffered from diabetes.

A few weeks later, the Jacksons and their attorney met with Heather to discuss the possibility of an adoption. Heather was not represented by an attorney during these discussions. According to both of the Jackson's and Heather, the attorney's explanation of the adoption process was that Heather would sign a consent to placement for adoption covering a six month period, during which period Heather could change her mind about the adoption, and that after the six months had passed, Heather would execute a consent

to adoption. The attorney did not explain that, in order to "change her mind" so as to stop the adoption process, Heather would have to show that it was in Brandon's best interest to have her consent withdrawn.

A hearing on the consent to placement for adoption was held before Magistrate Jonathon Holmgrin on October 22, 2019. Judge Holmgrin more fully explained to Heather the consequences of signing the consent to placement for adoption, including that fact that her consent could not thereafter be withdrawn "except for good cause shown." Holmgrin also explained to Heather that she could execute the consent to adoption as well as the consent to placement for adoption at that time if she wanted to do so and explained the consequences of executing the consent to adoption. Heather executed the consent to placement for adoption and the consent to adoption at the hearing. Shortly thereafter, however, Heather changed her mind about the adoption.

Heather filed a motion to withdraw her consent to the adoption on November 18, 2019. The trial court conducted a hearing on the motion over six days in November 2019 and January and July 2020. On July 28, 2020, the trial court overruled Heather's motion, stating that sufficient explanation was given so that a reasonable person would understand the adoption process and the ramifications of providing legal consent.

Heather raises three (3) assignments of error on appeal:

I. THAT HER CLAIMED CONSENT WAS NOT FREELY, KNOWINGLY, AND VOLUNTARILY GIVEN WITH A FULL UNDERSTANDING OF THE ADOPTION PROCESS AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF ONE'S ACTIONS.

II. THAT THE TRIAL COURT COMMITTED PREJUDICIAL ERROR IN ITS DETERMINATION THAT THE BEST INTEREST OF BRANDON WAS TO STAY IN THE HOME OF MR. AND MRS. JACKSON.

III. THE TRIAL COURT COMMITTED PREJUDICIAL ERROR AND VIOLATED APPELLANT'S CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF DUE PROCESS BY DENYING APPELLANT'S MOTION TO WITHDRAW HER CONSENT TO THE ADOPTION OF HER SON, BRANDON MARTIN JACKSON.

Heather contends that she was misled into giving her consent, that she did not understand the ramifications of signing the consent to placement for adoption, and that she therefore did not give her consent freely, knowingly, and voluntarily. Specifically, Heather contends that, when she signed the consent to placement for adoption, she did not understand that she would be required to show that it was in Brandon's best interest that he not be adopted in order to withdraw her consent. Rather, Heather claims that she thought, based on her conversations with the Jackson's attorney, that she had retained the right to withdraw her consent within the next six months for any reason at all. Thus, Heather claims that the trial court should have allowed her to withdraw her consent.

At the hearing before the trial court, the following evidence was presented regarding Heather's understanding of the consequences of her consent to Brandon's placement with the Jacksons. The Jacksons and Heather each testified that the Jackson's attorney's explanation of the adoption process implied that Heather could simply change her mind during the six month period after she executed the consent to placement for adoption, and that if she did so the adoption process would end. In addition to the information provided by the Jackson's attorney, the magistrate discussed the adoption process with Heather. The magistrate testified that he had informed Heather of the limited circumstances in which her consent could be withdrawn, as follows:

I say that if they wish to execute that consent that it cannot be withdrawn except for good cause shown. And that -- and that is difficult to do. I try to tell them that it's difficult. Of

course, I can't say it's impossible, because it's not. It can be up to the Judge. That is normally what I say in that regard, and that's what I said in -- with regard to this lady.

The magistrate further testified that he had asked Heather "a couple of times" whether she understood the consent form because he wanted to be sure that she understood what she was doing. The consent form, however, did not indicate the basis upon which consent could be withdrawn. Heather and the magistrate both testified that Heather had not asked any questions about the meaning of the consent form at the hearing when she was offered the opportunity to do so. The magistrate stated that Heather "did not have any reticence about it. "She said she wanted to do it and get it done." The magistrate also testified that Heather seemed very calm and collected at the hearing. On cross examination, the magistrate admitted that he had not pointed out to Heather that the Jackson's attorney had had a conflict of interest in presenting information to her about the adoption process. Heather testified that, after the hearing, she had still believed that she could change her mind about the adoption and that she would not have signed the consent if she had known otherwise.

ISSUES

- I. WHETHER OR NOT HEATHER’S CONSENT WAS FREELY, KNOWINGLY, AND VOLUNTARILY GIVEN WITH A FULL UNDERSTANDING OF THE ADOPTION PROCESS AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF ONE’S ACTIONS.
 1. Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §3107.081(A)(4)
 2. In re Adoption of Infant Girl Banda (1988), 53 Ohio App. 3d 104, 108, 559 N.E.2d 1373
 3. Ohio Rev. Code Ann §3107.084
 4. In re Adoption of Infant Boy (1989), 573 N.E.2d 753
 5. In re Adoption of Zschach (1996), 665 N.E.2d 1070
 6. Ohio Rev. Code Ann §3107.081(A)(1)

- II. WHETHER OR NOT THE TRIAL COURT COMMITTED PREJUDICIAL ERROR IN ITS DETERMINATION THAT THE BEST INTEREST OF BRANDON WAS TO STAY IN THE HOME OF MR. AND MRS. JACKSON.

- III. WHETHER OR NOT THE TRIAL COURT COMMITTED PREJUDICIAL ERROR AND VIOLATED HEATHER’S CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF DUE PROCESS BY DENYING HER MOTION TO WITHDRAW HER CONSENT TO THE ADOPTION OF HER SON, BRANDON MARTIN WALLACE.

* The case sights provided are to be used only as a starting point. You will need further research if you want to make a compelling argument to the Ohio Supreme Court.

State of Ohio
v.
Jeremy Jackson

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Jeremy Johnson was charged with harassing a police dog in violation of Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2921.32(B)(1), and resisting arrest in violation of Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2921.33. The facts are as follows:

On September 29, 2004, at approximately 3:00 a.m., Jeremy Johnson (hereafter Johnson), along with several friends, exited an apartment in Dayton, Ohio. Most of the group proceeded north on Court Street, walking on the west side of the street. At that time, Dayton City Police Officers were searching a vehicle parked on the east side of Court Street. The officers had completed "sweeping" the vehicle with a police dog and had returned the dog to a marked police car. The police car, which was parked directly behind the vehicle being searched, was clearly labeled as a "K-9 Unit." While in the police vehicle, the police dog barked continuously.

Shortly after coming out of the apartment, Johnson heard the police dog barking and responded to the dog by making barking noises from across the street. Johnson's barking caused the police dog to become excited, jump around the inside of the police vehicle, and bark more. One of the police officers on the scene Officer Scott Tanner (hereafter Tanner) approached Johnson and informed him that he was being arrested for harassing a police dog. Tanner forced Johnson against a wall and started to handcuff him, placing Johnson's hands behind his back. Johnson protested and attempted to turn to face Tanner. Tanner responded by forcing Johnson to the ground and handcuffing him.

Johnson charged with harassing a police dog, in violation of R.C. 2921.32(B), and resisting arrest, in violation of R.C. 2921.33. Johnson pled not guilty and moved for a dismissal of the charges. Johnson asserted that enforcement of the police dog harassment under the factual scenario before the court would amount to a violation of his First Amendment right to free speech.

The trial court conducted a hearing on Johnson's motion to dismiss. Several witnesses testified at the hearing, including Johnson, some of his friends, and Officer Tanner, the police dog's handler. Johnson and his friends generally testified that they had been drinking and were joking around with each other when Johnson began barking at the police dog. They further testified that they were walking down the street when Johnson made his barking noises. Finally, Johnson testified that he was not warned about making the barking noises prior to being arrested. According to Tanner's testimony, Johnson began struggling and attempted to pull himself free. Tanner then forced Johnson to the ground in order to have better control. During the entire arresting procedure, Johnson was cursing at Tanner.

During the arrest the dog continued to bark and behave erratically. The dog began jumping from the back seat to the front seat of the of the police car. During one such attempt, the dog tripped and fell. A later examination by a local veterinarian, determined that the dog had broken its leg. The dog was unable to return to duty for three months while the leg healed.

Officer Tanner did not contest Johnson's recollection that he was not warned about the barking before the arrest was made.

Initially, the trial court noted that although many jurisdictions have enacted statutes such as the one in Ohio, there is no case law dealing with a similar factual situation. Specifically, the trial court noted that most prosecutions involving police dog protection statutes involve the defendant making physical contact with, or causing physical harm to, the animal. Further, the trial court noted that, "It is difficult to conclude that the statute or the enforcement action herein 'is narrowly drawn' to achieve protection from a clear and present danger to the police dog in this case." The trial court also noted that Johnson was not warned and that no attempt was made to control the dog prior to Johnson's arrest. Thus, the trial court found that "the enforcement of R.C. 2921.321 in response to 'barking' with or at a police dog is prohibited where the defendant is at least thirty feet removed from the animal and there is no possibility of any physical contact with the police dog." The trial court dismissed the charges against Johnson.

The State of Ohio asserts that the trial court's decision to dismiss the harassment charges was erroneous because the court misinterpreted R.C. 2921.321 by adding an element of proximity (30 feet) not found in the statute. In addition, the state asserts that regardless of whether the dismissal of the harassment charges was proper, the resisting arrest complaint was erroneously dismissed.

ISSUES

I. Whether or not the trial court erred in holding that enforcement of R.C. Section 2921.321 in response to 'barking' with or at a police dog is prohibited where the defendant is at least thirty feet removed from the animal and there is no possibility of any physical contact with the police dog."

II. Whether or not the trial court erred in finding that Johnson's arrest was not supported by probable cause and thus dismissing the resisting arrest complaint.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Charge: Jim Jones was charged with corrupting a sporting event, in violation of Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §2915.05(b)(1); and possession of cocaine, in violation of Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §2925.11(A). The facts are as follows:

Jim Jones, a local businessman, booster and huge fan of Ohio State's football and basketball team, has become close to administrators, coaches and players within the Ohio State athletic department. On September 13, 2003, at a banquet for university boosters, Jones approached two prominent Ohio State basketball players (Jackson and Glenn) and asked them if they were interested in making a little extra money. As college students and short on income, they expressed interest, to which Jones said he would get back with them later.

On November 11, 2003, shortly after practice, Jones sought out Jackson and Glenn and began talking to them about his plan to make a little extra money. He invited the players to his house for dinner. Later that evening at his house, he began to talk to the players about point spreads, margins of victories and how they could still win games for Ohio States, but at the same time finesse the final score helping him "beat the spread" to win bets he placed for Ohio State. For example, he told Jackson and Glenn that in their opening game of the season against Middle Tennessee State on November 15, 2003, the oddsmakers have Ohio State favored to win by 25 points. If one were to bet for Middle Tennessee State and Ohio State were to win by less than 25 points, anyone who placed a bet on Middle Tennessee State would win. He then told Jackson and Glenn that if they helped keep the margin of victory under 25 points, they would get a cut of the winnings. Jones then gave Jackson and Glenn what he called a \$200.00 down payment. Jones then went into his kitchen, pulled out an 8" x 11" notebook, showed it to Jackson and Glenn and said, "Don't worry guys, this happens all the time. It's innocent and doesn't affect who wins or loses." Contained within the notebook was a letter that Jackson and Glenn each signed, stating what they would do.

The next day, after a sleepless night by both Jackson and Glenn, they decided to tell their coach, Randy O'Brien. They told O'Brien about the conversation they had with Jones and the notebook, which contained their signed letter. O'Brien immediately contacted the athletic director, Andy Barton and advised him what happened. Barton then contacted the local police. Based upon the statements of Jackson and Glenn, the local police rushed over to Jones' house, knocked on his door and told them they were going to search him home. Jones asked for a copy of a search warrant, to which Officer Byron responded, "Another officer is getting that right now."

Officers Byron and Fey began searching Jones' house for an 8" x 11" notebook. Officer Fey began searching the upstairs and Officer Byron began searching downstairs. After searching for about 30 minutes, Officer Byron went Jones' family room and started opening up the drawers on his end table and the cabinets to his entertainment center. When he opened up one of the cabinets, he noticed a closed cigar box. The cigar box was about 8" long x 6" wide, and was 4" deep. It could not have held an 8" x 11" notebook.

Officer Byron opened up the cigar box and found a white powdery substance, which he suspected was cocaine. Officer Byron seized the substance, took it back to the lab and had it tested. The substance was cocaine.

While Officer Byron was downstairs, Officer Fey was upstairs and came across an 8" x 11" notebook in a desk drawer in Jones' home office. Maintained within that notebook was a letter signed by Jackson and Glenn. After finding the notebook, Officers Byron and Glenn waited outside for approximately ten minutes when Officer Castle arrived with a valid search warrant. Officer Castle provided a copy of the warrant to Jones and the officers left. The warrant authorized search and seizure of an 8" x 11" notebook and authorized the officers to search Jones' residence and anywhere within the residence where the notebook may be kept.

At trial, Jones' attorney moved to suppress the notebook and the cocaine found within the cigar box. Jones' attorney argued that the search conducted by Officers Byron and Fey was an illegal warrant less search and as a result, the notebook and cocaine is inadmissible. He then argued that, if you find the search was not illegal or there is an exception allowing the admission of the notebook, then the cocaine should be suppressed because Officer Byron's actions were outside the scope of the warrant because it was unreasonable for the officers to search inside the cigar box, since the notebook could not have been maintained within the cigar box.

The judge admitted both pieces of evidence. The trial judge admitted the notebook based upon inevitable discovery. He then admitted the cocaine under the plain view doctrine. Jones was convicted of both offenses.

ISSUES

1. Whether the trial judge erred in admitting the notebook?
2. Whether the trial judge erred in admitting the cocaine?

Cases and statutes to research for this issue:

Fourth Amendment, Constitution of the United States

Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §2915.05(b)(1)

Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §2925.11(A)

State v. Brown, 65 Ohio St. 3d 483

Nix v. Williams, 467 U.S. 431

Minnesota v. Dickerson, 508 U.S. 366

United States v. Satterfield, 743 F.2d 827

United States v. Martinez-Fuerte, 428 U.S. 543

2026 Ohio Supreme Court



April 9 ~ 11, 2026



CASE	YOUTH SUPREME COURT DOCKET
1	<p style="text-align: center;">State of Ohio v Justin Blevin</p> <p>Jordan Swackhammer Attorney for the Appellee</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Corbyn Smalley Attorney for the Appellant</p> <p>JUSTICES: Addyson Dailey, Avery Robles, Dylan Triplett, Isabella Burnette, Grant Massie</p> <p>MARSHAL: Harley Harrison</p>
2	<p style="text-align: center;">Berkheimer v REKM, L.L.C., dba Wings on Brookwood et al.</p> <p>Jayce Moore Grant Massie Attorneys for the Appellee</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Malaki Wimer Tate Rosler Attorneys for the Appellant</p> <p>JUSTICES: Jordan Swackhammer, Elizabeth Erwin, Landyn Oglesbee, Harley Harrison, Addison Hickey</p> <p>Marshal: Dylan Triplett</p>
3	<p style="text-align: center;">Beverly Stowalt v Tree City High School</p> <p>Addison Hickey Liz Erwin Attorneys for the Appellee</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Isabella Burton Addyson Dailey Attorneys for the Appellant</p> <p>Justices: Tate Rosler, Corbyn Smalley, Malaki Wimer, Grant Massie, Avery Robles</p> <p>Marshal: Jayce Moore</p>

<p>4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">State of Ohio v Niquan M. Dunn</p> <p>Harley Harrison Attorney for the Appellee</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Dylan Triplett Attorney for the Appellant</p> <p>Justices: Addison Hickey, Jayce Moore, Landyn Oglesbee, Jordan Swackhammer, Isabella Burnette</p> <p>Marshal: Tate Rosler</p>
<p>5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">State of Ohio v Brown</p> <p>Avery Robles Attorney for the Appellee</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Landyn Oglesbee Attorney for the Appellant</p> <p>Justices: Tate Rosler, Addyson Dailey, Elizabeth Erwin, Corbyn Smalley, Dylan Triplett</p> <p>Marshal: Malaki Wimer</p>

Ohio Youth in Government 2026

CASE # 1



State of Ohio

v

Justin Blevin

State of Ohio

v

Justin Blevin

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Defendant-appellant, Justin Blevin, appeals his conviction and sentence in the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas for trafficking in heroin.

The Montgomery County Undercover Regional Narcotics Unit (NU) received a tip from a confidential informant that Blevin was transporting heroin from the East Coast to Ohio. The informant gave NU agents Blevin's name and address, along with information that several heroin overdoses in the area could be attributed to the heroin Blevin was selling. Agents also learned that Blevin would rent a car, and take his family with him on the trip to the East Coast to retrieve the heroin, usually in and around the Boston, Massachusetts area. Blevin's family included his wife and two children, ages 14 and 6. NU agents received similar information from 3 other trusted informants and cooperating defendants, including that Blevin was soon going to go to Boston for a large heroin purchase and would be bringing the heroin back to Ohio. It was also revealed that Blevin's in-laws live in the Boston, Massachusetts area.

NU agents began an investigation, which included surveillance on Blevin's home. Agents

learned from their confidential informants that Blevin was about to take a trip to Boston to purchase heroin, and through surveillance, confirmed that a rental car was located at Blevin's home. Blevin, along with his wife and two children, then left for Boston in the rental car.

Once the car had departed, agents continued their investigation and performed a trash-pull at Blevin's residence. During the trash-pull, agents located a paper that listed various phone numbers. Agents received a warrant related to Blevin's cellular phone, allowing them to "ping" the cell phone in order to determine Blevin's physical location. However, when the number associated with Blevin was found to be invalid, agents received a warrant associated with another phone number that was listed on the paper found during the trash-pull, which subsequently was discovered to belong to Blevin's wife. Agents "pinged" the phone belonging to Blevin's wife, and determined that the phone was located in Massachusetts. Agents later traced the pings from Massachusetts to Ohio as the Blevins traveled back toward Montgomery County. The phone owned by Blevin's wife was part of a phone plan that he and his wife shared. Their monthly bill for the phone plan was mailed to their house and was always addressed to Mr. Blevin's wife who initially purchased the phones for her and her husband. The phone bill was usually paid with a check associated with a bank account jointly held by Blevin and his wife.

Agents shared information learned from the investigation with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office regarding the confidential informants' tips and surveillance of Blevin's residence. Montgomery County Sheriff officers then became involved in the investigation and offered assistance in performing an investigatory stop when Blevin returned from Boston to the Montgomery County area.

After following Blevin's rental car, NU agents instructed Deputy Shannon Killenbrew, officer with the Montgomery County Sheriff's office, to pull over Blevin's car for an investigatory stop. Deputy Killenbrew had assisted the NU agents several days prior by running the license plates of the car parked in front of Blevin's residence to confirm that it was a rental. Deputy Killenbrew pulled Blevin's car over, and within a few minutes, a canine officer arrived on the scene and walked his canine partner around Blevin's car. The canine alerted the officers to the presence of drugs, and officers found marijuana in the driver's-side door as well as heroin in a suitcase located in the rental car's trunk. Deputy Blevin testified that she read Blevin his *Miranda* warnings immediately upon finding the drugs in his car, and that afterwards Blevin stated to her that he had driven straight from Boston without stopping and was tired. Blevin was then taken to the police station, where he spoke with one of the NU agents who testified that they re-advised Blevin of his *Miranda* rights.

Testimony provided during Blevin's trial, indicated that the audio and video recording equipment routinely used by NU agents and the Montgomery County Sheriff's office when performing interviews of suspects, malfunctioned during Blevin's interview, and does not show Blevin's being informed of his *Miranda* rights or consenting to waive them and speak with the NU agent.

Blevin was arrested and charged with trafficking in heroin, as well as possession of heroin. Blevin filed a motion to suppress, asking the court to suppress the heroin seized during the investigatory stop, as well as statements he made to the agents. After a hearing on the issue, the trial court overruled Blevin's motion to suppress. Blevin then pled no contest to the charges,

and the trial court found him guilty of both counts. The trial court sentenced Blevin to a mandatory prison term of 11 years. Blevin appealed his case to the appellate court which upheld the trial court's ruling. Blevin now appeals his conviction and sentence, raising the following three assignments of error.

APPELLEE'S BRIEF

State of Ohio

ARGUMENT 1: The court made the right choice in allowing the stop because police had reasonable suspicion that Justin Blevin was involved in a serious drug crime.

Officers received tips from several reliable sources and confirmed the information with surveillance and travel patterns that matched drug trafficking behavior. Under Ohio Revised Code 2935.03(B), officers can stop someone when they believe a person has committed a felony, so the stop was legal.

ARGUMENT 2: The court also correctly ruled that the search of the vehicle was lawful. After the car was stopped, a trained K-9 unit signaled to the officers that drugs were present.

This gave the officers a valid reason to search the vehicle without a warrant under Ohio Revised Code 2933.33. Heroin was found in the trunk, which violated Ohio Revised Code 2925.11 (No person shall knowingly obtain, possess, or use a controlled substance or a controlled substance analog), making the search and seizure reasonable.

ARGUMENT 3: The court allowed Blevin's statements to be used at trial. This was the right decision.

Officers testified that Blevin was read his Miranda rights, although the interview was not recorded due to equipment problems. Just because there was an equipment malfunction, does not mean he did not read his Miranda rights. This is supported under Ohio Revised Code 2933.83. The trial court believed the officers' testimony, and the court correctly supported that decision.

CONCLUSION: The court was right to deny Blevin's motion to suppress the ruling. All the officers involved acted within the law throughout the case. The lack of a recording does not mean that the officers did not read him his Miranda rights. Given all this, the court correctly found Blevin guilty and convicted him.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jordan Swackhammer

Attorney for the Appellee

APPELLANT'S BRIEF

Justin Blevins

ASSIGNMENT OF ERRORS

The court made errors in the following ways:

- I. The court relied solely on the officers testimonies and did not rely on recordings at all
- II. Blevin's Miranda rights were violated
- III. The traffic stop was unlawful

ARGUMENT 1: The court relied solely on the officers' testimonies and did not rely on recordings at all.

Although Ohio Revised Code § 2933.83 does not require recording an interrogation, the absence of recording made it difficult to prove that Miranda warnings were given, so the statements should not have been admitted.

ARGUMENT 2: Before the police question a person in custody, they must clearly state the person's Miranda rights.

The State must prove that the person knew of and understood those rights. Officers claimed that Miranda warnings were stated, but there is no recorded proof to prove that Belvin was informed of his rights.

ARGUMENT 3: Police are only allowed to stop someone if they have fair suspicion that crime is happening.

In this event, the stop was based mostly on tips from informants and by tracking not a phone of Belvin's but his wife. Police did not see Blevin commit any traffic violations before stopping him. Since there was not enough evidence that Blevin was committing a crime at the time of the stop, the stop was unlawful. Evidence found after the stop should have been suspended.

Respectfully Submitted,

Corbyn Smalley

Attorney for the Appellant

Ohio Youth in Government 2026

CASE # 2



Berkheimer

v

Wings on
Brookwood

Berkheimer

v.

REKM, L.L.C., d.b.a. Wings on Brookwood et al.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Background

Michael Berkheimer sued a restaurant, its food supplier, and a chicken farm after he suffered serious medical problems from getting a chicken bone lodged in his throat while eating a boneless wing served by the restaurant. The trial court determined that as a matter of law, the defendants were not negligent in serving or supplying the boneless wing, and the Twelfth District Court of Appeals affirmed.

The Incident

One evening, Berkheimer had dinner with his wife and others at Wings on Brookwood, a restaurant in Butler County owned by REKM, L.L.C. Berkheimer placed his usual order—boneless wings with parmesan garlic sauce. According to Berkheimer, there was no warning on the menu indicating that the boneless wings could contain bones. He followed his normal practice of cutting each boneless wing into two or three pieces before eating it.

After cutting the second boneless wing into three pieces and eating the third piece, Berkheimer felt like something went down the wrong pipe. He went to the restroom to try to clear whatever was in his throat but was unsuccessful. In the following days, Berkheimer had a fever and was unable to keep food down.

Medical Treatment and Injury

Three days after eating the boneless wings, Berkheimer went to an emergency room. In response to his wife's concern that he might have something stuck in his throat, a doctor examined Berkheimer's throat and discovered a thin chicken bone lodged in his esophagus. Medical records referred to the object as a 5cm-long chicken bone. According to Berkheimer, the bone tore his esophagus, causing a bacterial infection in his thoracic cavity and resulting in ongoing medical issues.

Food Preparation Process

During deposition, Sam Platt, a cook for Wings on Brookwood, described the process for preparing boneless wings. Platt explained that the boneless wings were made from pre-battered, boneless, skinless chicken breasts supplied to REKM by Gordon Food Service, Inc. (GFS). When cutting a chicken breast into individual wings, he made roughly the same cuts every time, resulting in approximately 20 boneless, one-inch chunks. Platt estimated that he physically touched about 90 percent of the boneless wings before they were served to customers.

Legal Proceedings

Berkheimer filed a complaint against REKM, GFS, and Wayne Farms, L.L.C. (which had sold the chicken to GFS), alleging claims of negligence, breach of warranty, adulterated food, misbranded food, and violations of the Ohio Deceptive Trade Practices Act.

REKM, GFS, and Wayne Farms filed motions for judgment on the pleadings, which the trial court granted. The Twelfth District initially reversed, but after further discovery, the defendants filed motions for summary judgment. The trial court granted the motions, determining that common sense dictated that the presence of bone fragments in meat dishes—even dishes advertised as boneless—is a natural enough occurrence that a consumer should reasonably expect it and guard against it.

Berkheimer appealed. The Twelfth District affirmed, finding that the bone was natural to the boneless wing and would have encompassed nearly the entire third bite of the boneless wing. The court held that under Ohio law, a reasonable consumer could have reasonably anticipated and guarded against the bone at issue in this case.

APPELLEE'S BRIEF

REKM, L.L.C., d.b.a. Wings on Brookwood et al.

ARGUMENT 1: The lower court was right regarding the decision to terminate Michael Berkheimer because the bone was completely natural to the boneless wing.

The trial court determined that common sense dictated the presence of bone fragments in meat dishes even dishes advertised as boneless. It is a natural enough occurrence that a consumer should reasonably expect it and guard against it.

ARGUMENT 2: The lower court was right regarding the decision to terminate Michael Berkheimer because he is classified as an unreasonable consumer.

Occurring to the Ohio law, a reasonable consumer could have reasonably anticipated and guarded against the bone at issue in this case.

ARGUMENT 3: The lower court was right regarding the decision to terminate Michael Berkheimer because the court noted that the bone was quite large relative to the food, meaning the diner could have likely noticed and avoided it.

The Twelfth District affirmed, finding that the bone was natural to the boneless wing and would have encompassed nearly the entire third bite of the boneless wing.

Respectfully submitted,

Jayce Moore

Grant Massie

Attorneys for the Appellee

APPEALANT'S BRIEF

Berkheimer

ASSIGNMENT OF ERRORS

There were multiple errors in the the court in the following manners:

- I. The lower court did not further explore his claims of adulterated food.
- II. The lower court misjudged Berkenheimer's claims of misbranded food.
- III. The restaurant injured berkenheimer with the false boneless wings and denied any guilty claims during trial.

ARGUMENT 1: The trial court committed “plain error” when they failed to recognize the claims of adulterated food. Due to 21 U.S. code & 342 “if any valuable has been in whole or in part omitted or abstracted therefrom.” stating that if any item that is not entitled on the menu or stated anywhere else has not been removed, it violates the code of adulterated food. In which the court glanced over this, yet if they hadn't it could have made a massive difference in the final verdict, and is a major mistake that this was left out of the trial.

ARGUMENT 2: Due to U.S. Code & 343 Any food that's labeled is false, or misleading, It is in violation of the U.S. Code 21 & 343. in which the court did not fully address the matter on his claims of misbranded food considering the court of district twelve looked at it, read his claims, and initially reversed it before reconsidering and granting the defendants not guilty.

ARGUMENT 3: During the trial the restaurant stated to reverse the claims that Berkenheimer put out, although the restaurant falsely claimed the chicken was boneless. This violates S.B. 38 which states to establish a certain liability on food injury standpoints. In other words stating that if the customer gets injured while eating a food, the business is completely liable, no matter what.

CONCLUSION: In closing, the court decided that Berkenheimer consumed a style of wing and that he should have been more aware when indulging in the food that the restaurant gave him.

Respectfully Submitted,

Malaki Wimer

Tate Rosler

Attorneys for the Appellant

Ohio Youth in Government 2026

CASE # 3



Beverly Stowalt

v

Tree City High School

Beverly Stowalt

v

Tree City High School

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Plaintiff-appellant, Beverly Stowalt (hereinafter B. Stowalt) appeals from a summary judgment rendered in favor of defendant-appellee Tree City High School.

On September 17, 2024, B. Stowalt's granddaughter, Jessica Stowalt (hereinafter Jessica) was a fifteen-year-old freshman at Tree City High School. At that time, Jessica lived with her grandmother, B. Stowalt, at a location approximately four miles from Tree City High School.

Although Tree City High School has a proud history, it, like the city it is named after, has fallen on hard times. For the third year-in-a-row, the school has ranked in the bottom 5% of Ohio schools for academic performance. Adding to this problem is the school's high drop-out rate and recent escalation of physical altercations in the classroom. The community surrounding the school is one of the poorest in the state. Drug usage, vandalism, and an increase in gang violence has placed an overwhelming strain on the local police force.

B. Stowalt drove Jessica to school on the 17th. It was typical for B. Stowalt to drive her granddaughter to school in the morning and pick her up in the afternoon. On that particular morning, B. Stowalt also picked up Jessica's friend, Stacey Adams, who normally walked to school. B. Stowalt dropped both girls at the end of an alley between Watervliet Avenue and the entrance of the high school on Mapleview Avenue.

After Jessica was dropped off, she and Stacey met Jason Stokely, a classmate, and several of his

friends. Jason and his friends were smoking a marijuana blunt and passing it around. Jessica said that she did not take a hit from the blunt, but Stacey stated that Jessica did take a hit. After a short time, Jessica, Stacey, and Jason left the alley and went into the main entrance of Tree City High School. After the students passed through the metal detector, School Resource Officer Michael Scott pulled them aside, because the three students smelled like marijuana. Officer Scott escorted them to the office of the school nurse, Yolanda Jackson (hereinafter Jackson).

Jackson made a physical assessment of each of the three students to determine whether they were under the influence of marijuana. Jackson found that Jessica had "fine motor skills tremors" and her pupils were dilated and not responsive to light from a flashlight. Jackson also checked Jessica's pulse and found it elevated above a normal pulse rate.

Jackson determined that Jessica "showed physical symptoms of being under the influence." Jessica later conceded that during the assessment she felt dizzy, light-headed, and had a major headache. After the assessment by the nurse, a school resource officer took the three students to the office of Assistant Principal Andrew Belding (hereinafter Belding), who suspended the three students for violating the Tree City High School Code of Student Conduct. Belding told Jessica to contact someone to come pick her up from school. Jessica tried to contact her grandmother, B. Stowalt, several times without success. B. Stowalt was Jessica's legal custodian, and was listed on Jessica's Registration and Emergency Medical Authorization forms. Jessica told Belding that she could not reach her grandmother; Belding told her to call someone else. Jessica then called her mother, Victoria Clark (hereinafter Clark).

Jessica reached her mother on the phone. Both Belding and Jessica spoke with Clark during

this phone call. Belding told Clark that Jessica could ride the RTA bus home alone and that he could give her a bus token. According to Jessica, she told Belding it was not safe to ride the bus home and that she was afraid to do so. According to Clark, she made it clear to Belding that she did not want Jessica to leave the school and that she would come pick Jessica up. Clark told Belding that it would take her a while to get to the high school because she would have to take the RTA bus there. According to Clark, Belding gave her assurances that he would keep Jessica at the high school until Clark arrived.

After Belding and Jessica completed their telephone call with Clark, Jessica was allowed to walk to some of her classes to get homework to complete during her suspension. According to Jessica, she then returned to the main office and told Belding that she was going to leave the school and walk home. At that time, Jackson was speaking to Belding. Neither Belding nor Jackson made any effort to stop Jessica from leaving the school.

On her walk home from the high school, Jessica called and texted several individuals on her cellphone, but not her mother or grandmother. When Jessica reached Boltin Street, approximately two miles from the high school, she was abducted and raped by a man named Justin Timberline.

B. Stowalt, as Jessica's legal guardian, brought this action against Tree City High and its employees Belding and Jackson, alleging that they were negligent and reckless when they allowed Jessica to walk home from Tree City High School while under the influence of marijuana, after being suspended from school. Legal counsel for Tree City High School moved for summary judgment. The trial court granted, and the appellate court upheld Tree City High School's motion for summary judgment, determining that it was not reasonably foreseeable that

Jessica would be injured on her walk home from school. In its summary judgment decision, the trial court found that a special relationship existed between Jessica and both Jackson and Belding. However, the trial court then found that the Stowalt's were unable to prove that any special duty arose in this case for Jackson and Belding to protect Jessica from the criminal act of a third party. As a result, B. Stowalt lost her appeal but has since been granted a discretionary appeal with the Ohio Supreme Court. Her sole assignment of error is that the lower courts erred in finding that Jackson's and Belding's actions were not a proximate cause of Jessica's injuries, and thus incorrectly sustained Tree City High School's motion for summary judgment.

Despite its success in having its motion for summary judgment sustained, Tree City High School (now referred to as appellee) has filed a cross-appeal, contending that the lower courts erred in finding that a special relationship existed between its employees and Jessica.

APPELLEE'S BRIEF

Tree City High School

ARGUMENT 1: The lower court was correct in their decision because Tree City High School was not responsible for the incident that happened two miles from the school campus.

Ohio Common Law states that duty ends when a student is off premises. Ohio courts have held that an institution does not owe a duty of care for injuries that occur off campus or outside the premises under its control. This supports the legal principle that the duty of care does not extend to off-campus harms that are not foreseeable or connected to the school's control. So, this proves that Tree City High School would not be responsible for the incident that happened two miles from campus and was not foreseeable or connected to the school.

ARGUMENT 2: The lower court was correct in their decision because a school will not fall liable for an incident that they could not prevent or protect the student from.

Ohio Revised Code Chapter 2744 grants public schools the immunity from liability from injuries. This isn't always guaranteed however it involves a three-tiered test where immunity applies unless the injury stems for specific exceptions. A school could be liable for an incident in three ways. One being if an employee's negligence leads to an injury and it does not fit a specific exception. The second way a school could fall liable is if reckless behavior from the employees takes place. This would be an employee ignoring medical notes or forcing dangerous activity. The third way a public school could fall into liability is property defects like if dangerous conditions on school grounds were existent.

ARGUMENT 3: The lower court was correct in their decision because no custodial control existed at the time of injury.

In the case of Queen City Terminals, Inc. v. General American Transportation Corp. the core rule stated “An intervening cause breaks the casual connection between negligence and injury when the intervening cause is both independent of the original actor’s negligence and not reasonably foreseeable.” It was Jessica’s independent decision to leave school grounds without an adult. This was then followed by an unforeseeable criminal act. Tree City High School was not responsible for Jessica at the time of the incident because she chose to walk home and leave the school's supervision.

Respectfully Submitted,

Addison Hickey

Liz Erwin

Attorneys for the Appellee

APPELLANT'S BRIEF

Beverly Stowalt

ASSIGNMENT OF ERRORS

There was an error in the court in the following manners:

- I. The Trial Court committed “plain error” by not charging Tree City Highschool with Child Endangering, when it was shown that the required mental and physical state of the victim (under the influence) was a serious physical risk to the health and safety of the child.
- II. The trial court made an error in denying that the actions of Jackson and Belding were a cause of Jessica's injuries and failed to charge the two for going against the policy regarding Parental Involvement in Section 3313.473 of the Board of Education.

ARGUMENT 1: The trial court committed “plain error” when they failed to charge Tree City Highschool staff, nurse Yolanda Jackson and Assistant Principal Andrew Belding with Child Endangerment.

Jackson and Belding were both aware of the physical conditions of 15 year old Jessica Stowalt. Jackson herself determined Jessica “showed physical symptoms of being under the influence.” She later conceded that Jessica felt dizzy, light-headed, and had a major headache, yet Jackson and Belding both allowed Jessica to walk home from school not only under the influence of marijuana but extremely vulnerable.

ARGUMENT 2: The trial court erred in charging the two for breaking the policy of Parental Involvement in section 3313.473 of the Board of Education.

The policy shall specify that notice to parents shall reinforce the fundamental right of parents to make decisions regarding the upbringing control of their children. Belding refused to follow Mrs. Clark's instructions to keep Jessica at Tree City Highschool until she arrived. He also broke this rule when stating that he would keep Jessica at the high school until Clark arrived.

CONCLUSION: In the original trial there were multiple errors that were left unaddressed. The court failed to charge Jackson and Belding with Child Endangering as they were both aware of Jessica's mental and physical state while under the influence given Jackson is the one who analyzed Jessica and determined her pupils were dilated and not responsive to light from a flashlight. The trial court also erred to recognize Jackson and Belding's violation of section 3313.473 under the Board of Education. Belding had gone against the mother's wishes to keep Jessica at Tree City Highschool until Clark arrived to safely get her home. Jessica's physical state had shown she was not capable of defending herself from possible third party actions. Under the supervision of Tree City Highschool staff Jessica Stowalt had been raped due to her inability to defend herself, both Jackson and Belding were aware of 15 year old Jessica's choice to get high on marijuana but failed to protect her and obey her mother's decision to keep Jessica safe at the highschool until Clark arrived.

Respectfully Submitted,

Isabella Burton

Addyson Dailey

Attorneys for the Appellant

Ohio Youth in Government 2026

CASE # 4



The State of Ohio

v

Niquan M. Dunn

State of Ohio

v.

Niquan M. Dunn

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The Controlled Buy and Investigation

On December 17, 2021, Detectives Steven Deardowski and Robert Altemus with the Geauga County Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant at the home of Justin Gould in Chardon, Ohio. Gould lived in an apartment that had been built into a garage detached from a house. Officers found methamphetamine during the search. Detective Deardowski asked Gould if he would be interested in sharing information about who had sold him the drugs, and Gould agreed to participate in a controlled buy. Gould called a man he referred to as Q and arranged to buy half a gram of methamphetamine at Gould's home in about 20 minutes. The call was recorded by Detective Deardowski.

Gould told Detective Deardowski that Q was a black man who lived in the area and would be walking to Gould's home. The law-enforcement officers left Gould's home to observe the suspected seller without being noticed. Within about ten minutes, Detective Deardowski saw a man matching Gould's description walking north on the sidewalk toward Gould's home. When the man reached Gould's driveway, he turned and walked toward the detached garage. Detective Deardowski identified the man as Niquan M. Dunn. After about a minute, Dunn left Gould's

home and headed south on the sidewalk. Once Dunn was clear from the area, Detective Deardowski returned to Gould's home and Gould gave him a baggie containing the substance he had just purchased from Dunn. Testing later confirmed the substance to be methamphetamine.

Trash Pulls and Search Warrant

Detective Altemus testified that he followed Dunn as he left Gould's home after the controlled buy and saw him walk to a house at 430 Karen Drive. The trash company that services 430 Karen Drive was contacted and a trash pull was arranged. The first trash pull occurred on December 21, 2021. Detective Altemus testified that the trash pulled from the house contained mail belonging to multiple people including Dunn, four tear-off baggies, and 14 felony baggies. Detective Altemus explained that drug traffickers often sell drugs using sandwich baggies by placing drugs in the corner, twisting to separate that corner, and tearing it off. A tear-off baggie is therefore a sandwich baggie with a bottom corner missing. Felony baggies are smaller plastic baggies used to hold an amount of drugs that would support a felony-level drug charge. Detective Altemus testified that one of the four tear-off baggies field-tested presumptively positive for the presence of cocaine.

A second trash pull occurred on January 4, 2022. This trash pull revealed a mirror with white residue and one more tear-off baggie, both of which field-tested presumptively positive for the presence of cocaine.

Search of the Residence

After the second trash pull, detectives obtained a warrant to search the house at 430 Karen Drive

and conducted the search on January 10, 2022. Detective Altemus described the house as a single-family, one-story home with a detached garage. Shirley and Joseph Gossett answered the door and let the officers inside. Detective Altemus encountered two other adult women and a four-month-old child in the living room. When asked who lived in the house, one person responded that all five of them plus Dunn lived there.

Officers went through the rest of the house and found Dunn asleep on the floor in the basement. Detective Altemus described the layout of the basement in detail. Dunn was found at the bottom of the stairs in an area that appeared to be like a living room. Walking to the right and then taking a second right led to an area used for storage and as the laundry room. Walking to the left and then taking a second left led to a room described as a kitchenette or bar area, separated from the laundry room by a wall.

During the search of the laundry room, officers found a makeshift closet that included a plastic storage container with three drawers. The drawers held men's clothing, Dunn's wallet, mail belonging to Dunn, and an orange bag. Inside the orange bag was a plastic baggie containing 0.7 grams of methamphetamine and a second plastic baggie containing 2.91 grams of crack cocaine. Officers also found a digital scale with white residue in the storage container. Detective Altemus testified that everything found in the storage container was believed to have belonged exclusively to Dunn. He estimated that the storage container was about 15 to 20 feet from where officers found Dunn sleeping.

Charges and Trial

Dunn was named in a six-count indictment filed in March 2022. Count 2 charged him with

aggravated trafficking in drugs in violation of R.C. 2925.03(A)(2) and (C)(1)(b), and Count 4 charged him with trafficking in cocaine in violation of R.C. 2925.03(A)(2) and (C)(4)(b). The indictment alleged that Dunn had committed both crimes in the vicinity of a juvenile, which enhanced Count 2 from a fourth-degree felony to a third-degree felony and Count 4 from a fifth-degree felony to a fourth-degree felony.

At trial, after the State presented its three witnesses, Dunn's counsel moved for acquittal on all counts under Crim.R. 29. Among other things, counsel argued that the State had failed to present sufficient evidence that the crimes alleged in Counts 2 and 4 were undertaken in the vicinity of a juvenile under R.C. 2925.03(C)(1)(b) and (C)(4)(b). The trial court denied the motion for acquittal with respect to these counts. The jury ultimately found Dunn guilty of the crimes charged in Counts 1 through 5.

APPELLEE'S BRIEF

State of Ohio

ARGUMENT 1: The state proved Dunn knowingly trafficked methamphetamine and cocaine.

The State presented sufficient evidence showing that Dunn knew he was trafficking methamphetamine and cocaine. Under R.C. 2925.03(A)(2), it's illegal to knowingly prepare for shipment, ship, transport, deliver, or distribute a controlled substance when the offender knows—or has reasonable cause to believe—the substance is intended for sale. The Ohio Supreme Court has consistently recognized that controlled buys monitored by law enforcement provide strong evidence of trafficking. That's exactly what happened here, giving the jury a solid basis to find Dunn guilty.

ARGUMENT 2: The evidence established Dunn's constructive possession of the drugs.

The State proved Dunn had constructive possession of the drugs found at the scene. Constructive possession doesn't require someone to physically hold contraband—it exists when a person exercises dominion or control over an object, even from a distance. While the container was located about 15–20 feet from where Dunn was sleeping, this proximity—combined with his exclusive ownership of the container's contents—gave the jury more than enough evidence to conclude he possessed the drugs.

ARGUMENT 3: The offenses occurred in the vicinity of a juvenile.

The State presented sufficient evidence that Dunn committed these offenses in the vicinity of a juvenile. Under R.C. 2925.01(BB), an offense occurs "in the vicinity of a juvenile" when it happens on or within 100 feet of a juvenile, or when a juvenile is present on the premises. Ohio courts have consistently held that drug offenses committed inside a residence where a juvenile is present satisfy this enhancement requirement—even when the juvenile isn't in the same room as the drugs. The evidence here clearly met that standard.

CONCLUSION: The State presented more than sufficient evidence to support Dunn's convictions and the juvenile-vicinity enhancement. The trial court correctly denied the Crim.R. 29 motion, and the jury's verdict was fully supported by the manifest weight of the evidence. For these reasons, the judgment of the Geauga County Court of Common Pleas should be affirmed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harley Harrison

Attorney for the Appellee

APPELLANT'S BRIEF

Niquan M. Dunn

ASSIGNMENT OF ERRORS

The court made errors in the following ways:

- I. The trial court wrongly denied Appellant's Crim.R. 29 motion for acquittal because the State did not present enough evidence that Appellant committed aggravated trafficking in drugs near a juvenile in violation of R.C. 2925.03(C)(1)(b).
- II. The trial court wrongly denied Appellant's Crim.R. 29 motion for acquittal because the State did not present enough evidence that Appellant committed trafficking in cocaine near a juvenile in violation of R.C. 2925.03(C)(4)(b).

ARGUMENT 1: The State did not prove that Appellant committed aggravated trafficking in drugs near a juvenile as required by R.C. 2925.03(C)(1)(b).

The evidence at trial showed that Appellant was found asleep in the basement of a residence during the execution of a search warrant. A four-month-old child was in a different part of the home. The drugs relating to Count 2 were found in a makeshift closet about 15 to 20 feet away

from Appellant. The State provided no evidence that Appellant was involved in any trafficking activity near the juvenile. The controlled buy happened weeks earlier at a different location and did not involve any juvenile. The State did not show that Appellant knew the juvenile was there, had control over the juvenile, or engaged in any drug transaction while the juvenile was nearby. Ohio courts have consistently ruled that the juvenile-vicinity enhancement requires more than the mere presence of a juvenile in the same residence. The enhancement must be strictly interpreted against the State, and speculation cannot replace proof beyond a reasonable doubt. Because the State did not establish a connection between Appellant's alleged trafficking actions and the juvenile, the trial court erred in denying Appellant's Crim.R. 29 motion regarding Count 2.

ARGUMENT 2: The State also failed to present enough evidence to support the juvenile-vicinity enhancement for trafficking in cocaine under R.C. 2925.03(C)(4)(b).

Like Count 2, the State relied only on the fact that a juvenile was present in the home during the search warrant execution. The cocaine for Count 4 was found in a storage container in a basement area separate from where the juvenile was located. There is no evidence that the juvenile was close to the drugs or that Appellant engaged in trafficking activity near the juvenile. The record lacks evidence that Appellant sold, prepared, packaged, or distributed cocaine near the juvenile. The State's evidence showed only constructive possession of drugs, which is not enough to support a juvenile-vicinity enhancement without proof of proximity and conduct. Therefore, the State did not meet its burden of proof, and the trial court wrongly allowed the jury to consider the enhanced offense in Count 4.

CONCLUSION: There were several errors in the lower court trials that were not addressed and led to an unfair trial for Dunn. The State did not provide evidence related to the violation of trafficking drugs near a juvenile under R.C. 2925.03(C)(1)(b). The State also failed to present adequate evidence that Dunn violated trafficking cocaine near a juvenile under R.C. 2925.03(C)(4)(b). The lower court erred in denying Appellant's Crim.R. 29 motion for acquittal on both charges due to insufficient evidence.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dylan Triplett

Attorney for the Appellant

Ohio Youth in Government 2026

CASE # 5



The State of Ohio

v

Monai Sherea Brown

State of Ohio

v.

Brown

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Monai Sherea Brown filed a bogus quiet-title action against Loie Hallug, the owner of 511 McAlpin Avenue in Cincinnati, to take possession of his home. Brown had never met Hallug and had allegedly never stepped foot inside his home. On July 21, 2017, Brown filed a quiet-title action against Hallug seeking to take his home, as she had done to at least two other unsuspecting homeowners.

Brown's complaint was fraught with inconsistencies and misrepresentations. Brown claimed to be the lawful owner of 511 McAlpin Avenue. Though she acknowledged that Hallug had once had an interest in the property, she alleged that Hallug had lost his interest when he failed to pay his mortgage and permanently abandoned his home. However, in an affidavit attached to her complaint, Brown declared that Hallug was the lawful owner of 511 McAlpin Avenue. And while she claimed ownership in her complaint, Brown asserted in an affidavit of indigency she filed in the quiet-title action that she did not own any property.

False Statements and Chronological Impossibilities

In her complaint filed on July 21, 2017, Brown maintained that she had entered the property at 511 McAlpin Avenue to take possession of it. Brown stated that she entered the property on August 1, 2017—a date that was 11 days in the future. This date was inconsistent with the declaration in her affidavit in which she averred that she took possession of the property on July 31, 2017—a date that was ten days in the future.

Brown asserted in her complaint that Hallug had been personally notified of her claim of rights in ownership of the property. She further stated in her affidavit that Hallug had been notified in a letter of intent sent via certified mail to 511 McAlpin Avenue of her intention to possess and occupy the property. Despite these assertions, she had not notified Hallug when she filed her complaint—a fact she later admitted at trial.

Six days after filing the quiet-title action, Brown sent Hallug a letter of intent to acquire his property by claiming title by right and/or adverse possession. In her letter, Brown demanded that Hallug pay her \$733 for improvements to the property that she had never made. She also warned that if he did not respond to her demands, she may pursue legal action, even though she had already done so.

Hallug's Response and Discovery

Hallug received Brown's letter on August 9, 2017, and thought it was ridiculous. Although Hallug's home had been vacant for two months in 2017 during his divorce proceedings and he had experienced financial difficulties that put his mortgage in arrears, Hallug eventually moved back into the home and worked with his mortgage lender to amend his mortgage. Brown did not make any improvements to Hallug's home while it sat vacant. Hallug responded to Brown's letter, rejecting her request for money and her claims to his home, but his response never reached Brown.

Soon thereafter, Hallug was served Brown's complaint. Hallug also discovered that Brown had placed the water bill for 511 McAlpin Avenue in her name. Hallug paid an attorney \$1,500 to represent him in the quiet-title action. Hallug's attorney filed a motion to dismiss Brown's complaint, which the common pleas court granted.

Criminal Prosecution

The financial-crimes unit of the Cincinnati police department investigated Brown after discovering her connection with a family that had filed several quiet-title actions, false mechanics' liens, and other legal documents against property owners in an effort to take their properties. A grand jury indicted Brown on charges of tampering with records kept by a governmental entity in violation of R.C. 2913.42(A)(1), theft in violation of R.C. 2913.02(A)(3), and unauthorized use of property in violation of R.C. 2913.04(A). Brown pleaded not guilty, waived her right to counsel, and proceeded pro se.

At trial, the state presented witness testimony demonstrating that Hallug had been the owner of 511 McAlpin Avenue since 2014, that Hallug remained the owner as of the date of Brown's criminal trial in 2019, and that Hallug had never abandoned the property as Brown claimed. Brown admitted that some of the statements she made in her complaint were false. The state also elicited testimony from Brown in which she conceded that her affidavit of indigency included a false statement. Brown alleged in her affidavit that she had no assets and no income, but admitted that she owned a vehicle when she filed the affidavit.

The jury found Brown guilty of tampering with records, acquitted her of unauthorized use of property, and could not reach a decision on the theft count. After receiving the verdicts, the state dismissed the theft count. The trial court sentenced Brown to one year in prison and ordered her to pay restitution to Hallug in the amount of \$1,500.

APPELLEE'S BRIEF

State of Ohio

ARGUMENT 1: The Common Pleas Court Properly Convicted Brown of Tampering with Records.

The court correctly convicted Brown for tampering with records under R.C. 2913.42(A)(1). Brown admitted at trial that several statements in her court filings were false, including material representations in an affidavit. Brown knowingly falsified records kept by a governmental entity.

ARGUMENT 2: The Common Pleas Court Properly Acquitted Brown of Unauthorized Use of Property.

R.C. 2913.04(A) requires proof that the defendant used or operated another's property without consent. Brown had never met Hallug and had allegedly never stepped foot inside the home. The quiet-title action was deceptive, but it was a court filing, not a physical trespass.

ARGUMENT 3: The Theft Count Was Properly Dismissed

The State failed to establish that Brown obtained or exerted control over Hallug's property or acted with purpose to deprive him of it, as required by R.C. 2913.02(A)(3). Brown never occupied, possessed, or acquired title to the property, and Hallug retained both ownership and use throughout the proceedings.

Conclusion: The record demonstrates that the Common Pleas Court and jury correctly applied Ohio law to the evidence presented. Brown's admitted false statements in court filings supported her conviction for tampering with records under R.C. 2913.42(A)(1). However the State failed to prove that Brown ever used or occupied Hallug's property, justifying her acquittal for unauthorized use under R.C. 2913.04(A). Finally, because the State did not establish that Brown obtained or exerted control over the property or acted with purpose to deprive Hallug of it, dismissal of the theft count under R.C. 2913.02(A)(3) was correct. For these reasons, the judgment below should be affirmed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Avery Robles

Attorney for the Appellee

APPELLANT'S BRIEF

ASSIGNMENT OF ERRORS

The court committed errors in its handling of the case as follows:

- I. The court's sentence did not adequately sentence Brown given the severity of her actions.
- II. The court wrongfully cleared Brown of unauthorized use of property and dismissed the theft charges.
- III. The court failed to properly examine Brown's intentional fraudulent actions.

ARGUMENT 1: Brown was initially indicted on charges of tampering with records kept by a governmental entity, unauthorized use of property, and theft by deception.

Tampering with records (R.C. 2913.42(A)(1)) is a fifth degree felony punishable by 6-12 months in prison and fines up to \$2,500, as well as institutions.

Theft by deception (R.C. 2913.02(A)(3)) becomes a felony when property's value meets the legal value requirements. Brown's conscious attempts of deception enhanced the severity of her actions.

Unauthorized use of property (R.C. 2913.04(A)) although the property was of relatively low value, it still demonstrates Brown's disregard and disrespect for the law.

The court failed to recognize and reflect the seriousness and deliberate intent of Brown's actions.

Her penalties were considerably light after looking at her multiple offenses and her fraudulent behavior that challenged the legal processes of her case.

ARGUMENT 2: Originally Brown was charged with theft and unauthorized use of property but these charges were later dropped and dismissed.

These counts were mishandled in the court's decision making; they failed to recognize the evidence presented in court was sufficient to support a conviction of theft as well as unauthorized use of property which also diminished the seriousness of Brown's criminal activity. The court was given the following evidence in regard of unauthorized use of property:

Utility bills in Brown's name: Brown was seen placing a water bill for 511 McAlpin Avenue, a property she had no right of use in any way, in her name. Evidence for complete unauthorized use of the property. This also resulted in Hallug's unnecessarily spending of \$1,500 for an attorney.

Attempt at collecting money for “improvements”: Brown wrote a letter to Hallug demanding he pay her \$733 for improvements that were never made. These demands were fraudulent and, under Ohio law, unlawful. Brown first falsely made statements that she made "improvements” to the property, she then demanded \$733 based on that lie, with intent to gain money she was entitled to. This all being sufficient evidence of not only theft by deception but also supports her accusations of Tampering with records, Patterns of fraud, and Intent to illegally obtain property or money.

Bogus quiet-title actions: Brown had not only filed a quiet-title action against Hallug to fraudulently take his property but she had done this to two other victims before Hallug. Brown's claim had inconsistencies and misrepresentations through her entire claim.

The dismissal of these counts failed to reflect the intent and seriousness of Brown's conduct and resulted in incomplete capture of the full scope of her actions.

ARGUMENT 3: Brown's case and actions were littered with fraudulent intent and actions. Six days after filing the quiet-title action, Brown sent Hallug a letter of intent to claim his property by right and/ or adverse possession.

After Brown demanded money from Hallug she also warned that if he did not respond she may pursue legal actions, even though she had already done so. This is evidence of her intent to deceive as well as false representation of legal rights. After investigation Cincinnati police discovered her connection to a family who had also committed similar quiet-title actions, false mechanics' liens, and other legal documents against property owners all in effort to take their property. This all shows fraudulent patterns through repeated use of legal documents, targeting unsuspecting property owners, and a consistent method to unlawfully obtain property. "False mechanics' liens and other legal documents" are serious fraudulent attempts to create open opportunities for theft. Brown also presented chronological impossibilities in her complaints. She filed a complaint on July 21, 2017 where she stated she entered the property on August 1, 2017 this date was 11 days in the future from the complaint. This date was also inconsistent with the declaration of her affidavit in which she claimed that she took possession of the property on July 31, 2017 a date that was 10 days in the future. This is clear intent for fraudulent intent and action.

CONCLUSION: For the following reasons, the lower court erred in its handling of Brown's case. The court's sentencing did not adequately reflect the severity of her criminal actions, it

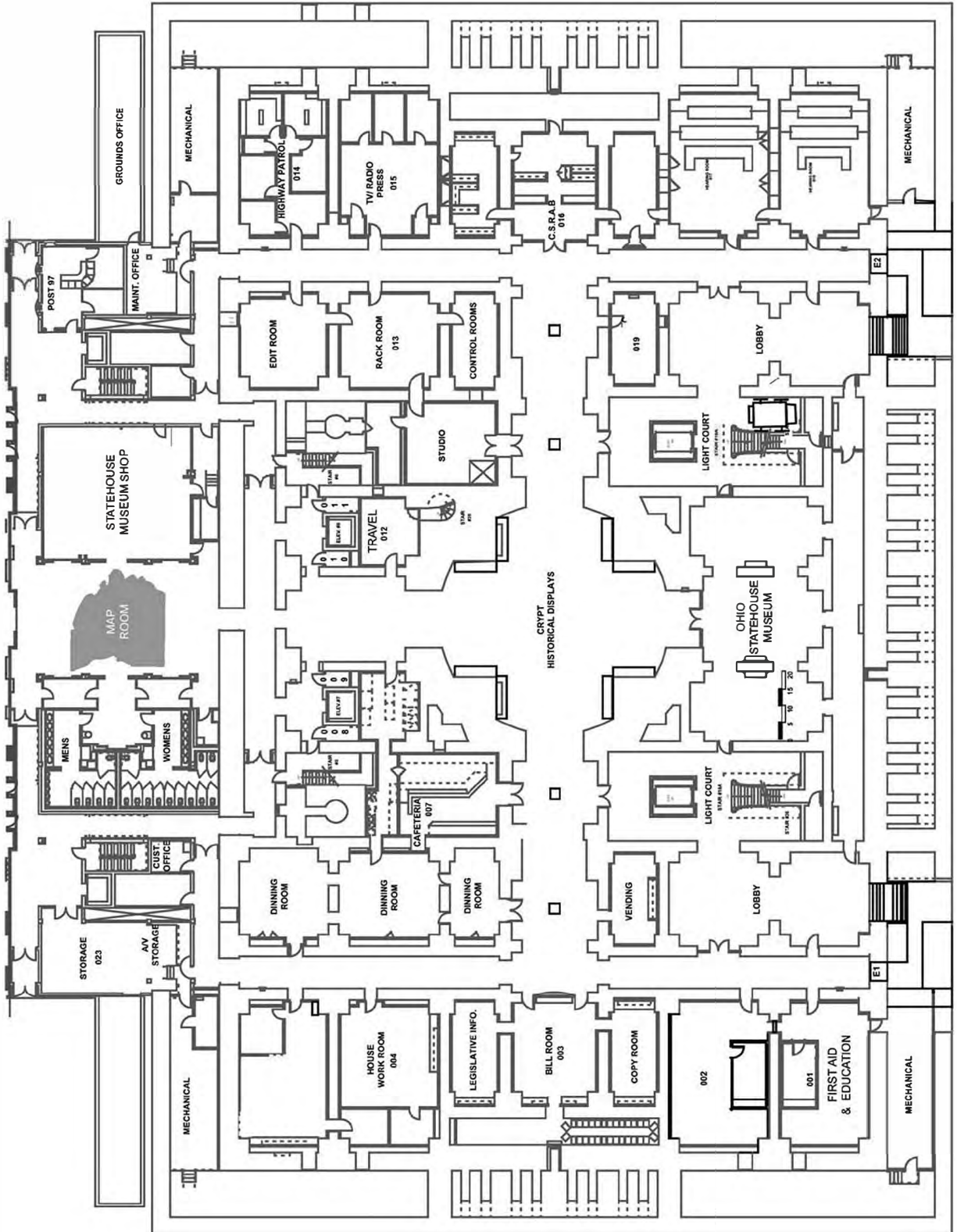
wrongfully dismissed her theft and unauthorized use of property charge, while also failing to consider the extent of her intentional repetitions of fraudulent acts with motives of self-gain.

Respectfully Submitted,

Landyn Oglesbee

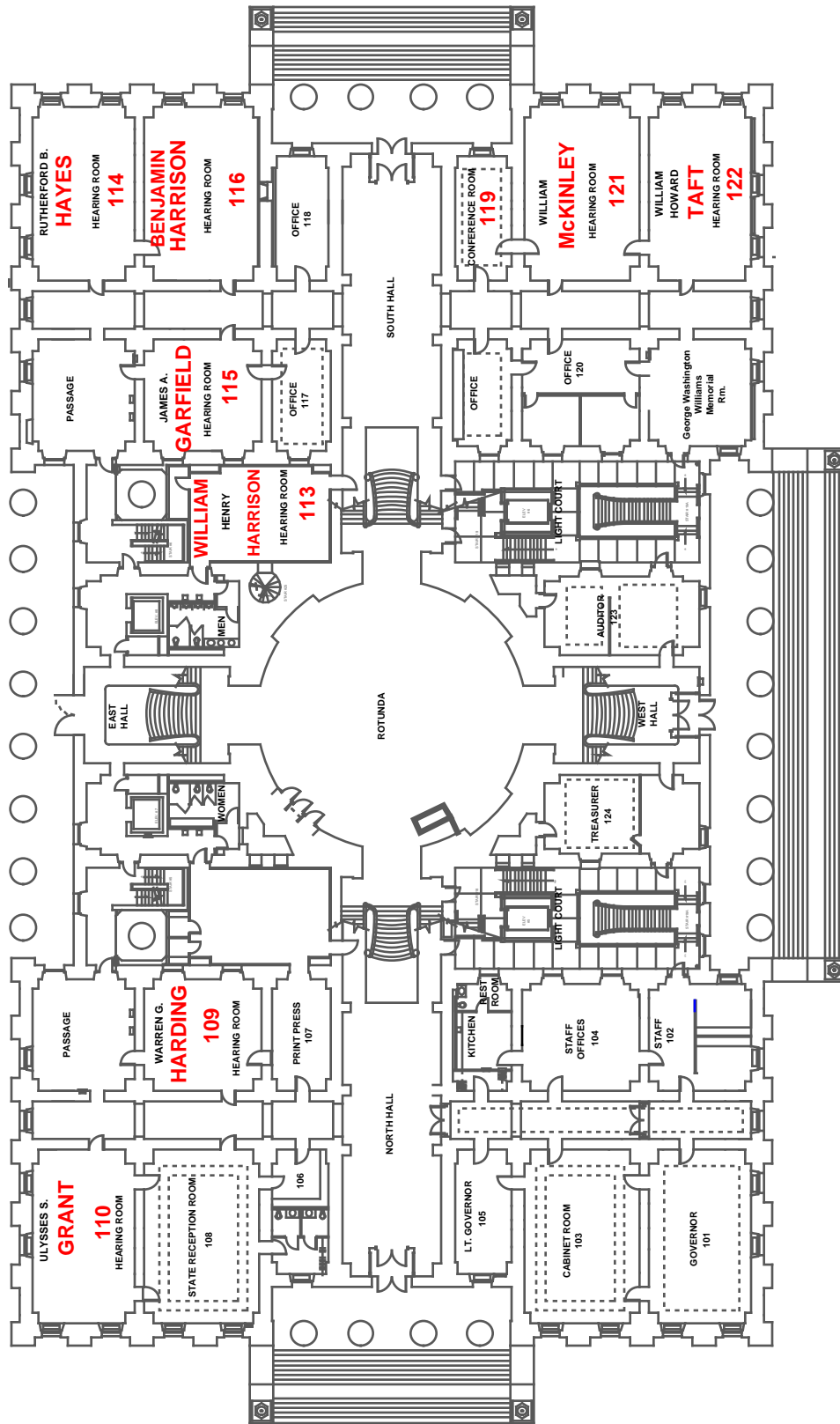
Attorney for the Appellant

STATEHOUSE FLOOR PLANS

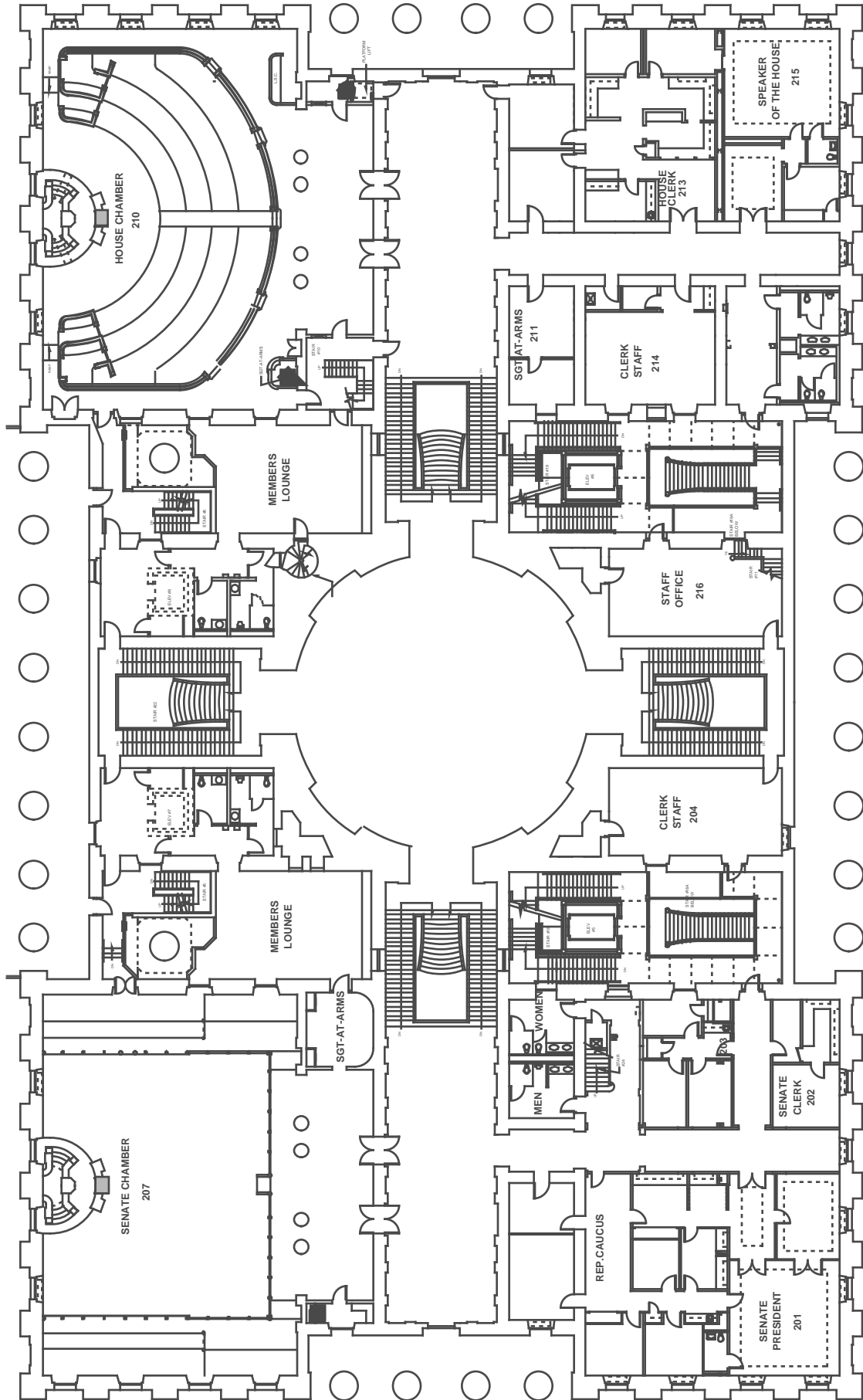


STATEHOUSE GROUND FLOOR

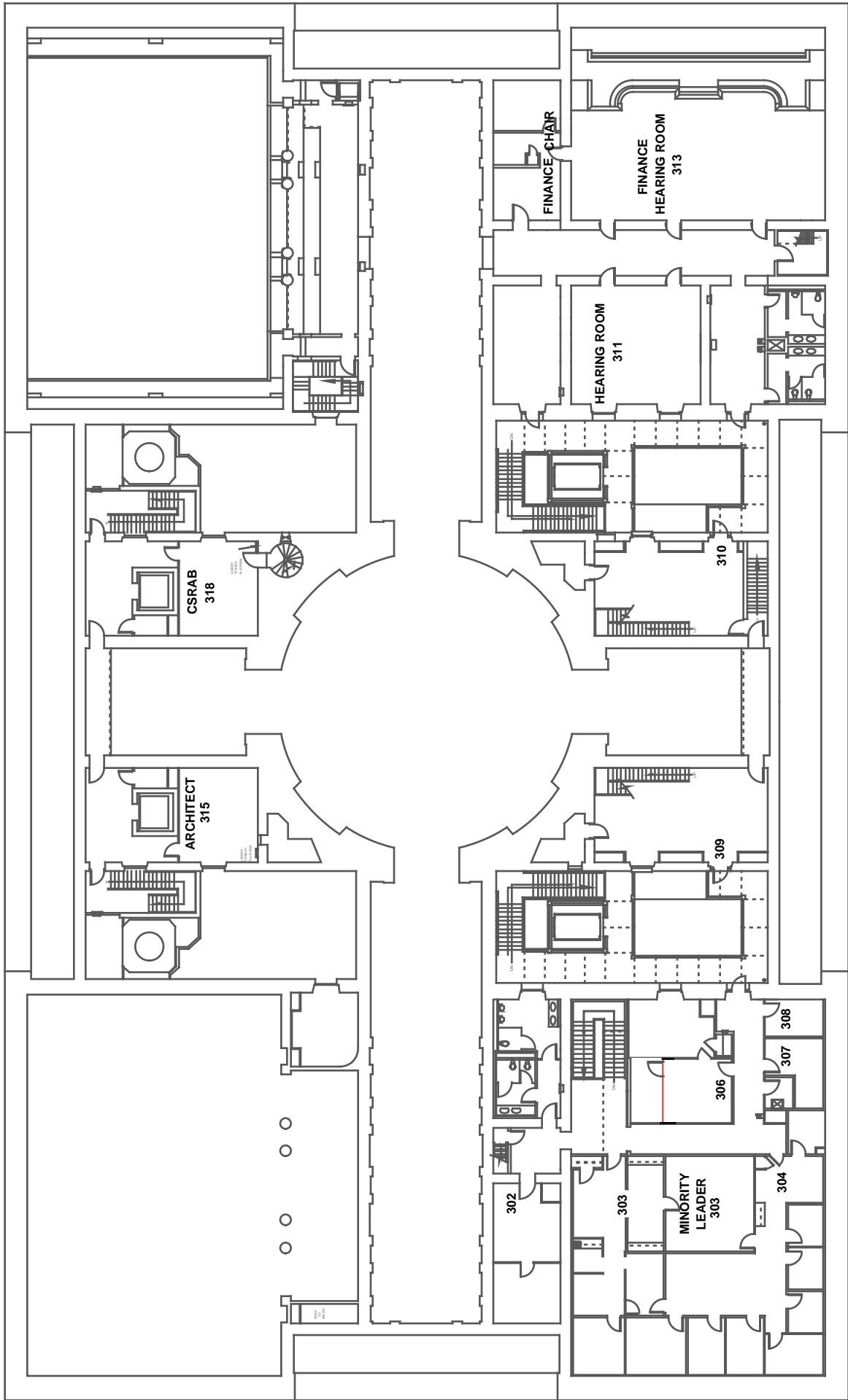
updated 6-23-09 CSRAB



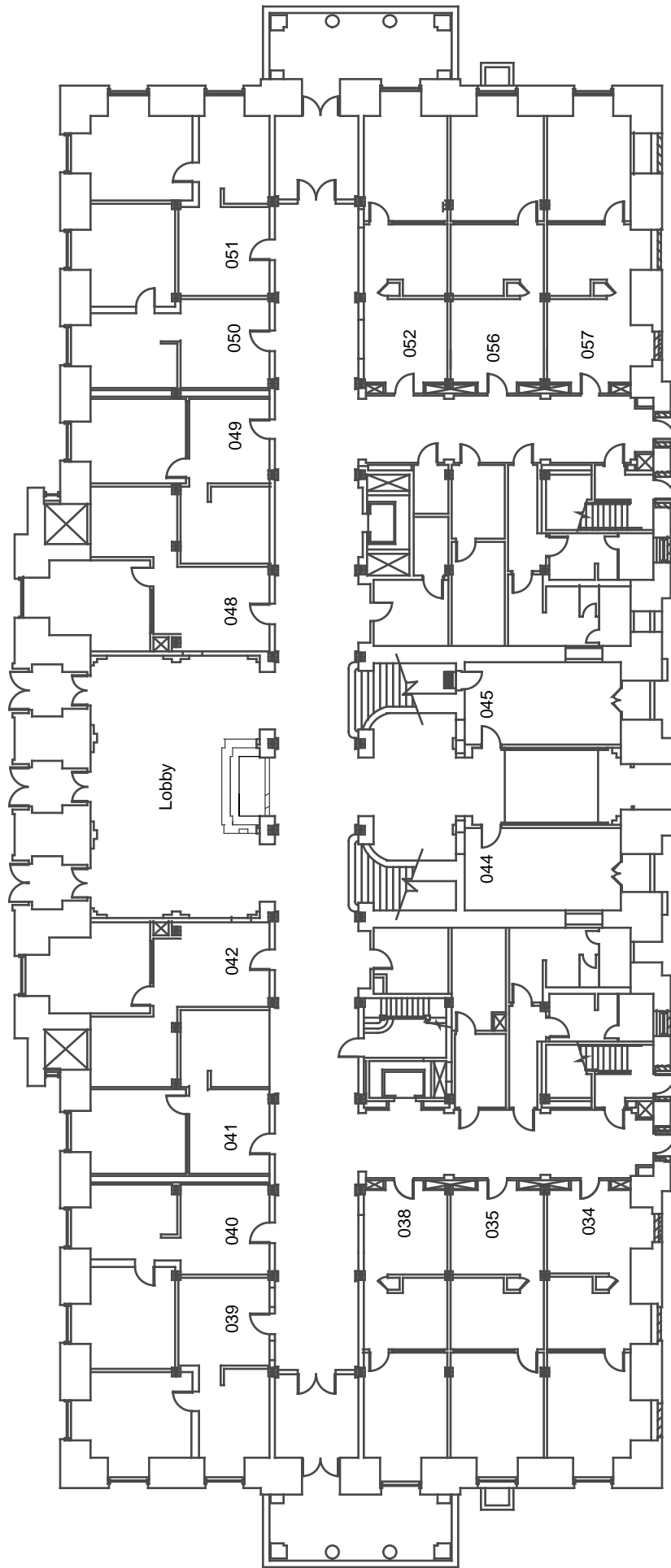
STATEHOUSE 1ST FLOOR



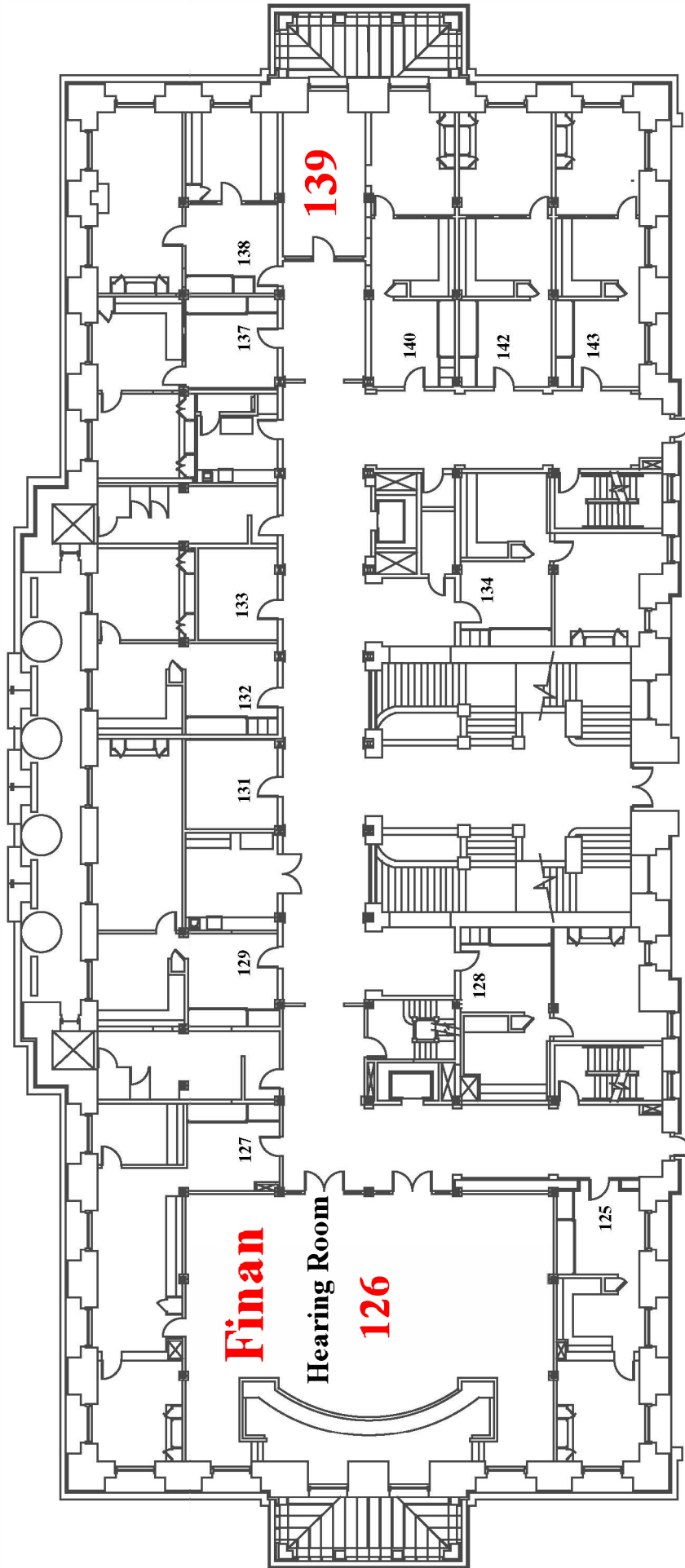
STATEHOUSE 2ND FLOOR



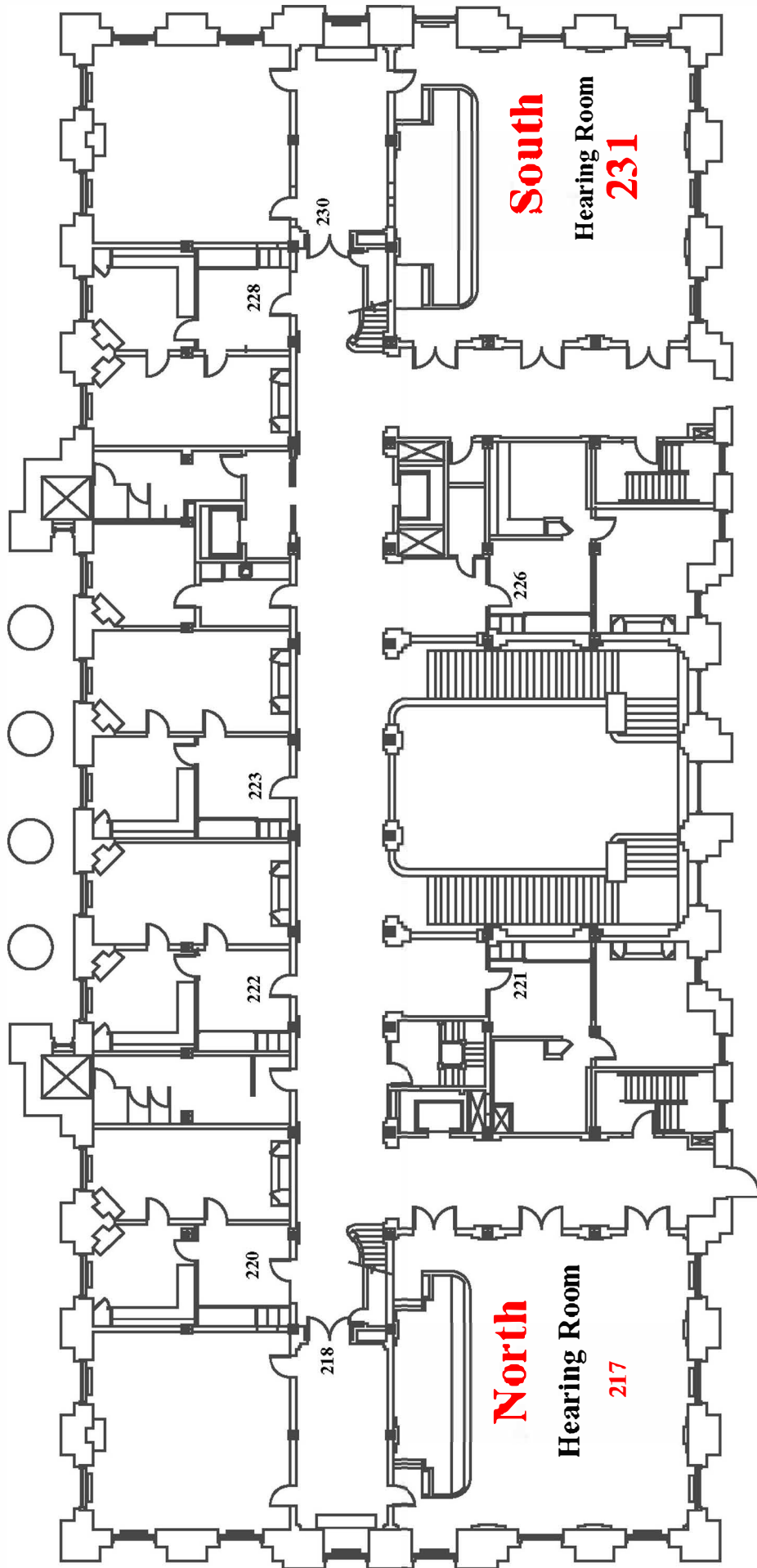
STATEHOUSE 3RD FLOOR



**SENATE BUILDING GROUND
FLOOR**



Senate Building 1st Floor



SENATE BUILDING 2ND FLOOR

Officer Leadership Corps

YLA groups, Youth in Government, Model United Nations Officers Lead in Building Better Futures

Officer Charter

Student officers strengthen, improve and expand all our youth programs to involve more students building better homes, schools and communities across our two states. Student officers are program leaders – in effect the youth program arm of our Ohio-West Virginia Youth Leadership Association Board.

Officers convene at a Leadership Summit at Horseshoe in June to organize, identify and plan how to strengthen all our programs, increase the numbers of students involved and the impact students will have creating the future. The opportunity is there to make differences for good building on and adding to the legacy of officer and member accomplishments that already include –

- ◆ A network of YLAs developing more informed, involved and prepared teenagers capable of governance who take responsible volunteer actions tackling issues from hunger to literacy – homelessness- entrepreneurship – safety – elderly - environment – bullying and more;
- ◆ Building Horseshoe in West Virginia into a life changing experience for hundreds of teens and children each year that is renewing the base of volunteers and leaders for our communities, state and nation;
- ◆ Launching the creation of a new nationally significant Center for Community Leadership at Cave Lake in Ohio to renew family, organizational, community, and civic life across Ohio with on-site programs for 31,000 and a statewide outreach to 6,000 youth;
- ◆ Creating one of Ohio’s top ten Make A Difference Day projects at Cave Lake;
- ◆ Volunteer Teen Corps helping needy boys and girls at the Governor’s Youth Opportunity Camps turn their lives to achievement;
- ◆ Using real life experience to propose legislation to the annual YG Student Legislature that every year helps hundreds of teens understand the role of state government as they propose legislative solutions for a better state;
- ◆ Enhancing understanding of the judicial system as students appeal cases to YG’s Student Supreme Court;
- ◆ Opening windows on the world to teenagers presenting Resolutions in Model United Nations to solve international issues that impact the future as well as their communities, state, nation and world;
- ◆ Producing thousands of better citizens, local volunteers and leaders plus state and national leaders including former Ohio Governor and Peace Corps Director Richard Celeste, the late Ohio Chief Justice Tom Moyer, and Sylvia Mathews Burwell, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services;
- ◆ 26th Amendment to the United States Constitution granting the vote to 18 year olds;

A Call for Officers – Now is the Time to Build the Future!

Students with the interest, commitment and time are called to step up as local YLA officers, YG and UN officers to lead YLA to increased participation, effectiveness and achievement locally and in our states. Officers begin in June’s Leadership Summit at Horseshoe.

Contact the YLA Leadership Center or your Advisor to get involved.

Officer Leadership Corps

Strengthening, Improving, Building Impact in our Schools, Communities and our Two States

The Ohio-West Virginia Youth Leadership Association Board counts on officers to lead YLA, YG and UN to success. Officers with the commitment, vision and time are needed. We need officers who want to make a difference! Our work begins at our Leadership Summits. The high school Summit and the middle school Summit are in June.

Officer Corps

YLA groups are real-life laboratories of citizenship where students learn how to organize and tackle issues confronting families, their schools and communities by creating, leading and governing local YLAs. Students apply classroom and life lessons to identify, plan and take volunteer actions to improve family, school and community life. YLAs build better futures by making differences for good!

Secure your Officers before May 20th and submit their names and contact information to YLA.

Have as many officers as possible – and for sure your new President – represents you at the June Leadership Summit at Horseshoe. Assure success by getting your officers trained and on board as part of our Officer Corps.

Youth in Government Officer Corps

YG officers review the just completed program, identify ways to improve YG for the New Year, establish goals for the year and lay out a plan of action. Officers engage other students in YG sessions to motivate them to participate and to return home ready to recruit their peers.

YG officers challenge everyone at the Summit to identify issues that need solved by the volunteer actions back home. Out of tackling issues like hunger, homelessness, the environment, needs of seniors, and other problems, students propose Legislation to YG's Student Legislature.

Officer positions elected by students at YG are Governor, Lt. Governor (Ohio only), Speaker, President, Clerks of the House and Senate, Chaplains of the House and Senate, Chief Justice. Appointment positions are Governor's Cabinet, Associate Justices, Press Editor and Committee Chairs.

Model United Nations Officer Corps

UN officers review the just completed program, identify ways to improve UN for the New Year, establish goals for the year and lay out a plan of action. Officers engage other students in UN sessions to motivate them to participate and to return home ready to recruit their peers. YLA will offer separate high school and middle school UN Assemblies.

UN officers challenge everyone at the Summit to identify international issues that need solutions and gain understanding how world issues impact their communities and future. Resolutions presented by students to the Model UN extend YLA's impact beyond the community and state to the world. Hunger, the environment, illiteracy, health and energy are just some world issues confronting our communities that YLA students tackle.

Officer positions elected by students at UN are President of the General Assembly, Secretary General, and Council Presidents. Appointment positions are Vice President of Councils.

Officer Responsibilities and Qualifications

YG officers are members of a YLA currently affiliated with the YLA Leadership Center. Officers are elected at the end of a YG session to serve through the next YG. The year of service is an opportunity to develop and use one's skills, improve YG, help other students have a positive YG experience, involve new schools and students, and advance YLA's youth leadership program.

Local YLA Nomination

Before a YLA holds its nominating meeting, be sure every candidate has the competence, commitment, time, people and social skills as well as attitudes required for to develop and lead others. Officers must be at ease in diverse places including Horseshoe, YLA conferences and retreats, Bill/Case Rating and YG.

Candidates must win the nomination of their local YLA for the office sought.

In other words, a person cannot just decide to run for an office. The person must secure the nomination of their local YLA.

Delegations may nominate no more than one (1) candidate per office.

The local YLA must have an officer nominating meeting. Every candidate is to have a chance to seek nomination. If there is more than one candidate seeking the nomination for an office, their local YLA will take a vote. The winner of that vote becomes the nominee.

Delegations submit their official nomination (s) on the Officer Candidate Nomination form in the Legislative manual by the deadline in the YG Calendar.

Potential Candidates

Before seeking the nomination for an office, make sure –

- ◆ Officers lead YG for a year in diverse places and programs. An officer must be at ease in YLA Summits, conferences and retreats, Bill/Case Rating, and YG. These places are intentionally chosen for the unique ways each calls people to engage with people in community building. YG is much more than parliamentary procedure, passing laws and debate.

Governor and Cabinet, Speaker, President, Chief Justice and Associate Justices participate in the Summer Leadership Summit at Horseshoe. All other officers including the appointed Press Editor are invited and welcome to join them at the Summit!

YG is about being a citizen with others . . . and this takes place in real places where people must act to build community. Because these places and programs are reality – not a virtual reality – they require real people (officers) whose positive attitudes and actions build responsible and engaged citizens.

- ◆ One can commit the time, work and money the position requires. Check one's calendar, check with parents and be sure the family's calendar will allow the commitment of the significant time the office requires. Check one's financial position – that of the family and the local YLA to be sure the money is available. If both time and money are available, lock them in to assure they will still be available if the office is won.

Do not seek the office, get it, and later ask to be excused from any of the position' responsibilities. Other defeated candidates were fully prepared to carry out their duties at these four programs and there were others who did not run because they could not.

- ◆ An officer who does not fulfill their responsibilities may resign or may be removed from office. If that happens, another person will be appointed or elected to the position. The new officer will complete the term of office through April YG.

Nomination for Office

Responsibility of the Nominating YLA

Nominate candidates with the competence to do the job. Please see Officer Duties, Local Nomination and Potential Candidates information above and Officer Responsibilities below.

Officer Responsibilities

Lead from the bottom up – not the top down

Set the example:

- ◆ Do what one asks and/or expects others to do;
- ◆ Help others do and become their best;
- ◆ Assert the purpose of YLA Youth In Government to peers;
- ◆ Insist peers achieve the highest levels of competence, personal and group conduct, respect for others Youth in Government and in facilities our program uses;
- ◆ Practice our core values of Respect – Responsibility – Caring – Trustworthiness – Honesty – Fairness – Citizenship.

Attitude

- ◆ Positive, likes people, welcomes and involves others, helps others succeed.
- ◆ At ease in diverse places including Summit at Horseshoe, YLA conferences and retreats, Bill / Case Rating and at YG – each place is different and all are deliberately chosen to engage people with people
building understanding and community building – wants to be in these places to enjoy the experience.
- ◆ Puts others first, thinks and acts based on what is best for the group.

Responsible

- ◆ Accept and carry out responsibility;
- ◆ Recognize that Youth in Government is youth led and adult supported;
- ◆ Insist peers be responsible for their attitudes, decisions and actions and that they all support the purpose, procedures and conduct expected by YLA and its Youth in Government;
- ◆ Act responsibly – it is not acceptable to say “that is the Advisor’s job”;
- ◆ Capable and willing to carry out the responsibilities listed in this section of the manual.

Competence

- ◆ Know and understand your job;
- ◆ Know the procedures, carry them out and insist peers do too;
- ◆ Select others for leadership positions based on their competence;
- ◆ Teach peers how to use the procedures;
- ◆ Mature in attitudes and actions.

Involvement

- ◆ Involve others, encourage others, bring more schools and students into YG;
- ◆ Model the involvement expected by others

Term of Office - From election or appointment to the adjournment of the next YG; the job is done all year, not just at the spring YG session.

Officers at the Summer Leadership Summit

- ◆ Train for and practice one's responsibilities
- ◆ Review YG Exit Surveys
- ◆ Determine how to strengthen the program
- ◆ Present YG to all participants, encourage their participation, train students to return home ready to prepare their members
- ◆ Learn how to connect YLA's service civic engagement and values to Youth in Government
- ◆ Build a statewide network of peers practicing YLA's core values, advancing YG, and building better futures for all.

Officers at YLA Conferences and Retreats

- ◆ Be prepared in procedure, responsibility, how to do your job and do it so your example of competence sends the message everyone is to achieve the highest standards of conduct, competence, and participation.
- ◆ Involve and engage others—encourage new schools and students to participate.

At Bill/Case Rating

- ◆ Know your job so well and be able to perform it with competence that the level of performance by everyone is raised to the highest levels.

Leadership Team

Governor

Select Cabinet

- ◆ Up to 4 persons
- ◆ Only one from a school
- ◆ Ideally no one from the governor's home school
- ◆ Cabinet Applications accepted at YG and the week after YG
- ◆ YLA sends applications to Youth Governor two days after due date
- ◆ Youth governor's selections made and YLA informed one week after receipt of applications from YLA
- ◆ YLA office sends letters of appointment or not appointed
- ◆ Governor and Cabinet begin work at Horseshoe Summer Leadership Summit in June

Officers at Summit

- ◆ Governor and Cabinet review Exit Surveys to determine how to improve for next year
- ◆ With the assistance of the Cabinet, develop a legislative platform

- ◆ By week's end, Governor determines Cabinet assignments
- ◆ Assist in training peers to participate and to train their members back home
- ◆ Recruit new schools and students to participate

Public

- ◆ Serve as a member of the Youth in Government Committee
- ◆ Speak on behalf of the program at events as requested by YLA

President of the Senate and Speaker of the House

- ◆ At Leadership Summit review Exit Surveys to determine ways to improve the Student Legislature, prepare the Legislative training portion of summit, conduct the training, identify students not in YG and recruit their participation
- ◆ Lead other legislative officers present
- ◆ Preside over legislative sessions, insist all participate on an intellectual and productive level
- ◆ Involve and engage other students, encourage new schools and students to participate in YG

Lt. Governor

- ◆ Assist and support the Governor
- ◆ Preside over the Cabinet for the Governor and lead the Cabinet in its work
- ◆ Assist other students to have a successful YG experience. Encourage new school and student participation.

Clerks

- ◆ Know and practice your duties
- ◆ At the Summer Summit, YLA conferences and retreats, Bill Rating, and YG perform your duties to assist in the operation of your House or Senate
- ◆ Assist your Speaker or President
- ◆ At YG, pick up Bills and the Order of the Day from the Bill Coordinator before legislative sessions
- ◆ Keep attendance at each session
- ◆ Read the Bills including amendments as directed by the Presiding Officer
- ◆ Count votes, report vote to Presiding Officer
- ◆ Record and sign all legislation
- ◆ Return Bills to Bill Coordinator, submit completed Bill Disposition and verbally report action taken on each Bill

Chaplains

- ◆ Prepare messages with an impact calling participants to YG's purpose
- ◆ Share your leadership at summer Summit, YLA conferences and retreats, Bill Rating and of course YG
- ◆ Assist your Speaker or President

Press Editor

- ◆ Take the opportunity to join the officers at the Summer Leadership Summit, YLA conferences and retreats, Bill / Case Rating to make connections helpful to you at YG and to be in on "the ground floor" of YG preparations and operations
- ◆ Take a lead in creating outstanding YG Press Corps
- ◆ Encourage, lead, involve and insist all Press Corps members perform with competence

Cabinet

- ◆ Support and represent the Governor's view on proposed legislation
- ◆ Encourage new schools and students to participate in YG
- ◆ Help all participants succeed
- ◆ Report to the Governor legislative views of Committees, Legislature and members

Competence

An important goal is to raise the level of competence of Legislators, Committee Chairs and all Officers. Success requires a joint effort by Officers, Staff and Advisors. Officers must accept their responsibility to lead their peers in directions required for a successful YG. Officers must take on responsibility to stand up to their peers when needed to correct or re-direct them and must always stand up to lead in positive ways. Any officer who cannot do this is expected to resign so that a person who can do the job with the right attitude can be appointed to get the job done.

Before Seeking Office

Potential candidates are to be sure they have the attitudes to positively participate in and provide the leadership needed throughout the year. Candidates must be sure they can commit the time the position requires. Do not seek the office, get it and then later ask to be excused from any of the position's responsibilities. Others who ran and were defeated were fully prepared to carry out their duties and there were others who did not run because they knew they could not.

One year of previous Youth in Government experience required for Speaker and President. Governor Candidates must have two years of YG experience. Governor Candidates may count the current year participation as one of those two years.

It is not just to get the office – it is to carry out the commitments of the office.

Election Procedure at Youth in Government

Candidates demonstrate their ability to do the responsibilities of the position they seek. There is no campaign, campaign speech, campaign material, electronic or phone campaigns. Campaigning for office in the manner regularly observed in real-life politics is prohibited.

No person should be eliminated from running for office because of finances. Candidates do not "buy" an election because of "stuff" (i.e. buttons, giveaways, posters, flashy websites, business cards, etc.). It is also essential that the process of the election not overshadow the actual work being done at YLA Youth in Government or Model UN.

Candidates are to be elected based on their positions on issues, leadership and an informed electorate. We encourage members to explore the qualifications, leadership record, and character of each candidate seeking their support.

YLA reserves the right to rule on campaign-related issues that arise as a result of evolving technology. Candidates who do not follow approved campaign procedures may be disqualified from the election process.

Each YLA member is encouraged to take an active part (as a candidate, or as a voting member). Our purpose is to select the most qualified candidates for the job. Our purpose in running for offices to serve should never be overshadowed by the election process (campaigning).

Delegates are responsible to vote for the best candidate and are not to be influenced by their Advisor or other adults seeking to determine the outcome of an election.

Campaign Do's and Don'ts:

YES

- Conversations with delegates (one-on-one)
- Social Media use that is positive and does not attack other candidates. IF a candidate has a website, it must be created and hosted with absolutely no cost/expense associated with it whatsoever.
- Demonstration of abilities during each program

NO

- Speeches/campaigning during program (other than YLA-scheduled times)
- Buttons, posters, flyers, giveaways
- Social Media that attacks another candidate
- Signage/flyers at hotel or Capitol/Statehouse

Candidates Follow This Procedure

Chaplain candidates give a three (3) minute presentation that calls (challenges) the Legislature to its purpose. Chaplain candidates make presentations that demonstrate how they will perform their duties as Chaplain. Candidates for Chaplain may be asked to perform the duties of Chaplain during a session.

Clerk candidates sight read a Bill selected by the Presiding Officer.

Lt. Governor is an elected office in Ohio, not in WV. In WV YLA Youth in Government, the Senate President is the Lt. Governor. Candidates for Lt. Governor speak for 2 minutes on the "Role of the Lt. Governor in the Student Legislature."

President and Speaker candidates preside over a session of the Legislature using a Bill before the Legislature as determined by the Legislative Calendar or a Bill of their choice. The candidate selects the Bill, a person to be Clerk, Authors, Minority and Majority Reporters and Legislators to speak for and against the Bill. Candidates exhibit their knowledge of the procedure by conducting the session that lasts no more than five (5) minutes. The procedure used is:

"The Student Legislature is in session." (gavel to order)

"This being an extraordinary session, we will dispense with the Chaplain's message, and the reading of the Journal and the Order of the Day."

"Is the Author of the Bill present?" (Recognize the Author for a 30 second presentation of the Bill) "Is there a Majority Report?" (no more than 30 seconds)

"Is there a Minority Report?" (no more than 30 seconds)

"The question is, shall the Bill pass?"

After 3 to 5 minutes of discussion and debate, the Chair will call for the question and proceed with

the vote. "The question is, shall the Bill pass?" Those in favor say "aye." Those opposed, say "nay." (The Chair then declares the Bill passed or defeated.)

Governor candidates speak for 3 minutes on their "Legislative Agenda for the Student Legislature." A word of advice to Governor candidates – Avoid making "deals" with other Governor candidates to appoint each other to the Governor's Cabinet. Upon election, one may find that defeated officer candidates may not be the best person(s) to appoint. Don't get boxed in.

There is always an opportunity during the appointment period to appoint one or more defeated candidates if they apply and appear the best person(s) for the job.

Voting Procedure

A simple majority of these eligible votes determines the winning candidate.

Officer

Governor
Lt. Governor (Ohio only)
Clerk & Chaplain
Speaker
President
Chief Justice

Eligible to

Legislators, Supreme Court Justices, Press, Lobbyists, Officers
Legislators, Supreme Court Justices, Press, Lobbyists, Officers
Legislators
Members of the House
Members of the Senate
Supreme Court Justices

Note – In case of an office with only one candidate, voters mark their ballot with a "Yes" if they vote in favor of the candidate or write "No" if they oppose. Write in and unmarked ballots are not counted.

Committee Chair & Vice Chair Qualifications & Responsibilities

Committee Chairs Qualifications

1. Ideally, one year experience as a Legislative Delegate;
2. Know the procedure, implement, and engage all committee members;
3. Effective facilitating groups;
4. Participates on an intellectual and productive level;
5. Organized, keeps accurate records, works with Bill Coordinator and Committee Advisor, has excellent verbal and writing skills.

Cannot be a Bill Partner with another Committee Chair or Vice Chair candidate.

Selection Procedure

1. Candidates submit an application that is endorsed by their Advisor.
2. The Speaker and President may begin Committee Chair appointments during the Summer Summit, at YLA conferences and retreats. In the event that Chair positions are open after these times, YLA staff may make appointments.

Opportunities to Learn and to Gain Leadership Experience as a Committee Chair

1. Committee Chairs are invited and welcome to participate in the Summer Summit as well as YLA conferences and retreats for training, practice, relationship building with other students, and experience leading including leading committees.

Bill Rating/Officer Training/Committee Chair Training in February needs the active participation of Committee Chairs. This is the first time Committee Chairs get to see the student legislation proposed for the April YG. Committee Chairs also play a key role in setting the Legislative Calendar (determining when Bills are considered) by participating in the Bill Rating Process.

Responsibilities

1. Prior to Youth in Government, study all Bills assigned to the Committee and review all Bills presented to YG. It is also helpful to contact the Bill Authors who will appear before the Committee, the Lobbyists, Cabinet members and Officers.
2. Represent the committee to the Bill Coordinator.
3. Carry out the Committee procedure.
4. Lead the Committee in active participation on the Floor in the debate on Bills referred by Committee. Get your Committee members to make the Committee's views known to all members during Floor sessions.

Committee Vice Chairs

Qualifications

- ◆ Able to preside in the absence of the Chair.

Selection

- ◆ Senate Vice Chairs may be appointed prior to YG or may be appointed by a Committee Chair at YG if their Committee needs a Vice Chair. Not all Committees may have a Vice Chair. Chairs who may be away from their Committee may ask a Committee member to preside in their absence.

Responsibilities

1. Serve as Clerk of the Committee.
2. Assist the Committee Chair.
3. Preside in the absence of the Chair. The Chair, Clerk or Vice Chair cannot be Legislative partners. Both cannot be absent from the Committee at the same time.

Youth Governor and Cabinet

Governor's Cabinet

The Governor appoints Cabinet members from those who meet the requirements for the office and who apply. Applications are accepted through the week after Youth in Government.

Cabinet members join the Governor and other officers at the June Leadership Summit at Horseshoe. The Officer Leadership Corps reviews the just completed Youth in Government, identifies improvements for the new year, train for their responsibilities and engage other students at the Summit in Youth in Government sessions so they will want to participate in YG as well as return home to encourage others to participate.

The Governor seeks the advice of the Cabinet as the Governor creates a Platform. At the end of the Summit the Governor assigns Cabinet members to head a department and/or area of interest (environment, economic development, safety, education, etc.). Cabinet members are then responsible to become expert in their area.

During the year, at YLA conferences and retreats and at Bill/Case Rating the Cabinet serves as resource persons in those interest areas plus advance the position of the Governor on the issues.

At Youth in Government the Cabinet represents the Governor's interests in Committees and with Legislators. Cabinet members listen to Committee hearings and floor debates in their area of interest, act as the Governor's advocate on related legislation, and report to and advise the Governor on legislation that reaches the Governor's desk.

Successful Cabinet members –

- ◆ Are informed in the areas they represent
- ◆ Understand the legislative process
- ◆ Have excellent people skills
- ◆ Can work on their own and as part of a team
- ◆ Are good listeners and good communicators
- ◆ Help Student Legislators, Lobbyists, Press, Page, and others succeed

Youth Chief Justice and Associate Justices

Associate Justices

The Chief Justice appoints Associate Justices from those who meet the requirements for the office and who apply. Applications are accepted through the week after Youth in Government. Associate Justices join the Chief Justice and other officers at the June Leadership Summit at Horseshoe. The Chief Justice and Associate Justices review the just completed Student Supreme Court, identify improvements for the new year, train for their responsibilities and engage other students at the Summit in a Supreme Court session so they will want to participate in the Student Supreme Court at YG as well as return home to encourage others to participate in the YG Judicial program.

During the year, at Fall Conference and at Case Rating the Associate Justices assist the Chief Justice in rating the cases for consideration at YG.

Successful Associate Justices –

- ◆ Understand the YG Judicial process
- ◆ Have excellent people skills
- ◆ Can work on their own and as part of a team
- ◆ Are good listeners and good communicators
- ◆ Help others succeed

Serving as an Officer in YG and UN

1. Officer Candidates for YG and UN are determined by a Nomination Election conducted by local YLA Chapters. Chapters may nominate only one (1) candidate for each office. **One must secure the nomination of one's Chapter** to seek office. See Section 7 of the YLA Advisor Kit.

2. **YG and UN Officers must attend and participate in the total YLA Teen Leadership Summit at Camp Horseshoe June 14-20, 2026.**

NO EXCEPTIONS, NO EXCUSE. Do not even ask.

Not attending the total June 14-20, 2026, Summit means you forfeit your office. You have vacated your office. Another person may be appointed to the vacated office – or at the opening session of the program an election may be held.

3. The Summit is essential to **YG and UN success.** **Here's why** the Summit:

YLA is distinctly different – YLA is unique. Not a class, not a textbook, not lectures, not defeating another team. YLA is living the big questions to create community.

Officers and members in YLA Chapters, YG, UN Officers have significant responsibility. Many of us have experience in our school cheer, football, **basketball, debate, and soccer teams.** **Our team's goal is to win** – defeat other school teams. Team captains lead the team.

YLA is different in that the goal is a "win" for the greater good of our communities, state, nation and our world. YLA brings together students from different schools, communities, and backgrounds to work together.

How do we do that when much of our outlook and experience is to defeat the other person – defeat the other team.

Deegan Evans

Youth Governor 2027 Applicant

Jackson



Past Youth in Government participation (years and positions held):

OYIG 2024 - Delegate

OYIG 2025 - Delegate

OYIG 2026 - House Clerk

Qualifications for the office:

I attended YIG all 3 years that I was able, took 2 bills, both of which passed (Road Bike Sales Tax Removal Act and Cervidae Brawling Act).

Student Council

Style of leadership and how it will help other delegations succeed:

My style of leadership involves hearing ideas from everyone involved and discussing possible ideas in order to make whatever we are working on better. This translates to YIG as in committee, we all share ideas in order to make the bill better.

School interests and activities:

-Varsity Cross Country, Varsity Track, Varsity Bowling, Marching Band, Student Council, Student Health Council, YLA, Leo's Junior Representative, DFCA Ambassador, National Honor Society, Tri-M

-Worked a shift at the Leo's table at the school health fair

-Worked a shift for the school at the local blood drive

Community interests and activities:

-Raised money and collected candy for Holzer Assisted Living residents to give out.

-Supervised children at the Jackson Bash in The Park

-Hid Easter eggs for Trinity Chapel's Easter egg hunt

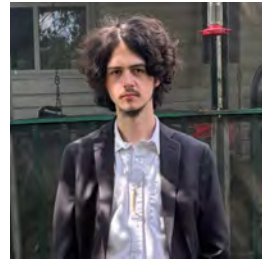
An especially meaningful service experience:

An especially rewarding service experience was when I played a bassoon duet with my instructor for the Holzer Assisted Living residents as I got to show my passion to others.

Eli Browning

President of the Senate

Jackson High School



1. Past YIG Experience

- Delegate (2024)
- Delegate (2025)
- Committee Chair (2026)

2. Qualifications

- Previous experience in YIG, one bill failed (Bottled Water Price Cap Act), one bill passed (Cervidae Brawling Act)
- Committee Chair position this year
- Homecoming Committee
- Student Council
- Hope Haven Secret Santa
- Outside of school political experience

3. Style of Leadership

- Organized
- Attentive
- Respectful

4. School Interest and Activities

- YLA Membership
- Former Marching Band Member (rejoining next year)
- AP US History (4 on the exam)
- AP Language

5. Community Interest and Activities

- Local Activism within the Democratic Party of Jackson County
- Position of Historian of the Jackson County Democratic Party
- Unofficial position of Youth Outreach for Jackson County Democratic Party (there is a newspaper article from the *Telegram* that refers to me with that title, but it is not an actual position)

6. Especially Meaningful Service Experience - N/A

Jordan Swackhammer

Chief Justice

Jackson Youth in Government



1. This is my second year attending Youth in Government. I am a member of the Judicial branch.
2. I am very qualified for this position. I fully understand the significance and responsibility of this position, but I believe I am fully prepared and qualified. I am a class officer for the sophomore class, I am the president of My Brother's Buddy club, and I am a member of numerous other clubs.
3. I am a leader that likes to lead by example. If I act responsibly and carry out my duties like I should, other members will as well.
4. I am in a plethora of clubs, including: YLA, Youth in Government, Leos, Student Council, I am a class officer, My Brothers Buddy, and Interact. I have attended uChicago's summer leadership camp, and I am going to attend HOBY this summer.
5. My main community service interest is being a camp counselor. I affect all the children that attend camp. I also hold a voter registration drive to encourage students that are of age and I plan on starting a pickleball club.
6. This is the most meaningful act to me because I have the ability to make sure they all have a safe and fun environment and experience.

**2027 Certification of Officer Nomination for Ohio Youth in Government
Due No Later Than Postmark March 1st**

to close nominations for Governor, Lt. Governor, Chief Justice, President of the Senate and
Speaker of the House (accepted at YG if no one applies by March 1)

Instructions

1. Delegations conduct a Nomination Election to determine officer nominations.
2. Certify by signature of the Delegation Leader that -
 - Nominees meet the qualifications for the office.
 - Nominees will participate on an intellectual and productive level in the performance of their duties including attendance for the total time at the programs required of Ohio YG Officers.
 - The nominee(s) have won the nomination of our local Delegation.
 - **If elected, I understand to retain the office, they are required to attend Teen Leadership Summit held at Camp Horseshoe June 14 - 20, 2026 and Bill/Case Rating in February.**
3. Have each nominee complete the reverse side (make additional copies as needed).
4. Delegation Leader mail completed Nomination Packet to the YG Office no later than **March 1st postmark**

Please Type or print

Delegation Name _____ Delegation Leader _____

School _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Nominee Name

Governor _____ **closed**

Lt. Governor _____

Chief Justice _____ **closed**

Must be in the Judicial Program to run for Chief Justice.

President of the Senate _____ **closed**

Speaker of the House _____

Clerk (Specify House or Senate) _____

Chaplain (Specify House or Senate) _____

It is YLA policy that an officer who does not participate in the Leadership Summit at Horseshoe June 14 - 20 will be removed from office since they are not there to perform their duties. The newly-appointed officer would then complete the term of office through the April YG Conference.



2027 OFFICER APPLICATION FORM - Ohio Youth in Government - Each Nominee Completes and Submits this form with their Delegation's Certificate of Officer Nomination Nominee

Name _____ Office Seeking _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
Email _____
Delegation _____ School _____

*Enclose a picture for use in the Youth in Government Printed Material

Type Candidate Sketch by answering these questions.

1. Past Youth in Government participation (years and position);
2. Qualifications for the office - what do you bring to the office?
3. Style of Leadership and how it will help other delegates succeed;
4. School interests and activities;
5. Community interests and activities;
6. An especially meaningful service experience.

I understand that if I am an officer and do not participate in the Leadership Summit at Horseshoe June 14 - 20 for whatever reason, I will be removed from my office. Another person at the Summit will be appointed to the position. The new officer will complete the term of office through the April YG Summit.

_____ **Applicant's Signature** verifying the above statement was read and understood.

I attest that this information is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and that if elected I will carry out my responsibilities as outlined in the manual.

Student Candidate: Signature _____ **Date** _____

I support this application, understand the responsibilities and time requirements of an officer. I also understand my child, if elected, will be required to attend Teen Leadership Summit June 14-20 or lose their position.

Parent: Signature _____ **Date** _____

This delegate has the qualifications for this office and has been nominated by our Delegation.

Advisor: Signature _____ **Date** _____

**Delegation Leaders - Return complete Nomination Packet by postmark March 1st to
YLA OH Youth in Government
522 Sandhill Road, Point Pleasant, WV 25550**





Application for 2027 Ohio YLA Youth in Government Governor's Cabinet
Submit no later than May 12th

Applicant's Name: _____ Delegation: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____
Zip _____ Cell Phone _____ Home Phone _____
Email _____ Year of Graduation _____
Previous Youth in Government Experience (list years and position): _____

Explain how your leadership style, experience, commitment, time, and ideas for and about Youth in Government qualify you for this position. Attach an additional sheet with your answers as needed.

If appointed to the Cabinet by the Youth Governor, I will carry out my responsibilities as outlined in the YG Manual and Bill Book. I will attend Teen Leadership Summit June 14 - 20 at Horseshoe and bill rating in February to assist the Youth Governor in preparing for YG in April.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

I support this application and understand the responsibilities expected of a Cabinet member.

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Advisor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Return application to Youth in Government
522 Sandhill Road, Point Pleasant, WV 25550 Phone (304) 675-5899



**Application for 2027 OH YLA Youth in Government Associate Justice
Submit no later than May 12th**

Applicant's Name: _____ Delegation: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____
Zip _____ Cell Phone _____ Home Phone _____
Email _____ Year of Graduation _____
Previous Youth in Government Experience (list years and position): _____

Explain how your leadership style, experience, commitment, time, and ideas for and about Youth in Government qualify you for this position. Attach an additional sheet with your answers as needed.

If appointed an Associate Justice by the Chief Justice, I will carry out my responsibilities to the Chief Justice and the YG Judicial program. I will attend Teen Leadership Summit June 14 - 20, 2026 at Camp Horseshoe and case rating in February to assist the Chief Justice in setting the schedule of cases and planning for YG in April.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

I support this application and understand the responsibilities expected of a Cabinet member.

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Advisor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Return application to Youth in Government,
522 Sandhill Road, Point Pleasant, WV 25550 Phone (304) 675-5899



Application for 2027 Ohio YLA Youth in Government Press Editor
Submit no later than May 12th

Applicant's Name: _____ Delegation: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____
Zip _____ Cell Phone _____ Home Phone _____
Email _____ Year of Graduation _____
Previous Youth in Government Experience (list years and position): _____

Explain how your leadership style, experience, commitment, time, and ideas for and about Youth in Government qualify you for this position. Include any experience you have in writing and with a newsletter or other publication. Attach an additional sheet with your answers as needed.

If appointed Press Editor, I will carry out my responsibilities as in the YG manual and Bill Book. I will make every attempt to attend Teen Leadership Summit at Horseshoe June 14-20, 2026

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

I support this application and understand the responsibilities expected of the Press Editor.

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Advisor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Return application to Youth in Government
522 Sandhill Road, Point Pleasant, WV 25550 Phone (304) 675-5899



**Application for 2027 Ohio YLA Youth in Government Committee Chair
Submit no later than May 12th**

Delegation Name _____

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ County _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cell Phone _____ Home Phone _____ Grad Year _____

Email _____

My previous Youth in Government Participation (years and position) include:

I am qualified to be a Committee Chair because:

I will help the Committee be a successful experience to all members and those who appear before the Committee by:

If selected I will make every effort to participate in the Teen Leadership Summit at Horseshoe June 14-20 and Fall Conference. I will participate in the Bill Rating/Training in February.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

I support my child's application and understand the responsibilities that accompanies it.

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Advisor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

On other side, this application, the Delegation explains why they so or do not support this application for Committee leadership. The explanation is to be signed by your Advisor.

Submit application to: Youth in Government
522 Sandhill Road
Point Pleasant, WV 25550¹¹⁶
or email YLA@ylaleads.org



LEADERSHIP SUMMIT AT CAMP HORSEHOE

June 14 - 20, 2026

Character • Leadership • Service •
Entrepreneurship • Philanthropy

YLA -
Hearts That Give



JOIN US THIS SUMMER AT
CAMP HORSESHOE
FOR AN
UNFORGETTABLE WEEK!

117



Summit Highlights:

- Expand your network - new friends and contacts
- Create family - community - life long friends
- Discover possibilities - ideas - new skills
- Enjoy these beautiful mountains
- Dive into a new life away from daily distractions
- Enjoy family style good food
- Enhance communication, organizing leadership skills
- Learn how to lead, serve and engage others
- Youth in Government, Model United Nations
- YLA Youth Action Council
- Make your YLA Chapter, YG, UN the best for everyone!

Horseshoe Leadership Center
3309 Horseshoe Run Road
Parsons, WV 26287
(304)478-2481
www.ylaleads.org

🎓 Who Can Attend?

Rising 9th–12th graders ready to learn, lead, and level up their future 🦾👉

🔪 Worried About Cost?

Camp week fee is \$375, \$330 if paid by May 15th. Fees are well below actual cost. Limited or no money - get sponsored. Go ask Lions, Rotary, Kiwanis, Ruritan, Moose, Eagles, Woman's Club, Church or youth group fundraiser. After camp be a program for your sponsor to thank them and share your camp story. Ask them to sponsor someone next year! 🙌

🧠 Level Up Your Leadership

Build real skills: communication, teamwork, organization, and confidence. Lead now. Lead later. 🚀

🤝 Make Real Friends

Meet people who listen, support you, and hype you up—for life ❤️

🔥 All the Fun

Sports. Music. Campfires. Creek exploring. Variety Show. Outdoor adventures. Non-stop memories 😄🌲

❤️ Give Forward

Learn how to make a difference in your school, your community, and the world 🌍

🕒 When Are We There?

📍 Arrive: Sunday @ 2 PM

📍 Leave: Saturday @ 9 AM

Full week = full experience 100

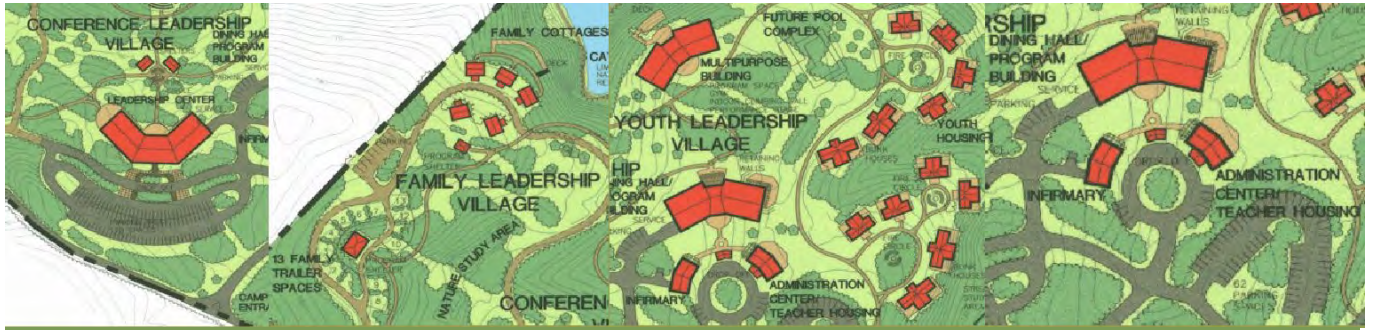


Prepare for Success

Gather with youth leadership officers, interested teens, and other service-minded people to make a real difference for good. Discover your potential by expanding your mind and developing skills for leadership success. Plus, learn how to lead your student groups with excellence. Invest one week at Horseshoe and you'll gain skills, friendships, adventures, and memories to last a lifetime.

The Ohio-West Virginia Youth Leadership Association is an equal opportunity provider.





YLA OHIO CAVE LAKE CENTER FOR COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP
1132 Bell Hollow Road, Latham, Ohio



Nature's Classroom

730 plus acres ~ 42-acre lake ~ Frost Cave ~ 150 species of birds ~ 160 species of trees and shrubs ~ 360 species of blooming plants ~ rare plants including *Sullivantia Sullivantii*



Service

Philanthropy

Leadership

Entrepreneurship

Character



YOUTH LEADERSHIP ASSOCIATION

YLA Chapters

Youth in Government

Model United Nations

Youth & Government Seminars

Cave Lake

Camp Horseshoe