

# The Ohio Court of Appeals Fifth District

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**JUDGES**  
W. SCOTT GWIN  
WILLIAM B. HOFFMAN  
SHEILA G. FARMER  
JOHN W. WISE  
PATRICIA A. DELANEY  
CRAIG R. BALDWIN



SUITE 320  
110 CENTRAL PLAZA, SOUTH  
CANTON, OHIO 44702-1411  
(330) 451-7765  
(330) 451-7249 Fax  
(800) 369-4528 Toll Free  
(800) 750-0750 TTY/TDD  
THROUGH THE OHIO RELAY SERVICE

Web Site Address  
[www.Fifthdist.org](http://www.Fifthdist.org)

January 26, 2017

Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor  
The Supreme Court of Ohio  
65 South Front Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3431

RE: Advisory Committee on Court Security 2016 Annual Report

Dear Chief Justice O'Connor:

In accordance with the Operating Guidelines for the Advisory Committee on Court Security. I am pleased to present the following summary detailing the Advisory Committee's activities and accomplishments during 2016.

The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to provide ongoing advice and recommendations to the Supreme Court and its staff regarding the promotion of statewide rules and uniform standards concerning the establishment and operation of court security programs in Ohio courts, including emergency preparedness programs; the development and delivery of services to Ohio courts on matters involving court security, including training programs for judges and court personnel; and the consideration of any other issues the Advisory Committee deems necessary to assist the Supreme Court and its staff regarding court security in Ohio Courts.

The Advisory Committee met twice during the year meeting on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and October 21<sup>st</sup> respectively. In addition, members of the previously established Education Sub-Committee conducted regular meetings with personnel from the Ohio Judicial College and staff from the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy.

As discussed in further detail below, the Advisory Committee continued our focus and efforts primarily on three items during the year: (1) the development and implementation of training courses and curriculum for court bailiffs and other related personnel who may perform court security duties or functions for Ohio's courts; (2) a review of the Court Security Standards contained in Appendix C to the Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio and (3) identifying key court security issues throughout the state for the committee to address in the future as we move forward.

ASHLAND, COSHOCTON, DELAWARE, FAIRFIELD, GUERNSEY, HOLMES, KNOX, LICKING,  
MORGAN, MORROW, MUSKINGUM, PERRY, RICHLAND, STARK, TUSCARAWAS

## **Court Security Education and Training**

As a result of the collaborative efforts from members of the Education Sub-Committee, the Judicial College, staff from the Ohio Peace Officers Training Academy, and various subject matter experts, I am pleased to report that two units of security education/training were successfully developed and offered during 2016.

The first unit titled “Security Screening” was presented regionally at three different locations and attendance was at capacity on each occasion. In addition, for calendar year 2017, the course is scheduled to be offered regionally at locations in Grove City and Toledo.

The second unit titled “Court Security Fundamentals” was presented in Columbus on November 15<sup>th</sup> and had over 50 attendees. For calendar year 2017, this unit of instruction is scheduled to be offered in Akron, Dayton, and Perrysburg.

In addition, the sub-committee anticipates that additional curriculum will be completed that will include units that address such topics as legal issues, civil process, and communication.

Finally, it is worth noting that this project could not have been possible without the direct support of yourself and the Supreme Court of Ohio. The initial availability of scholarships provided by the Court to help off-set the costs to local courts contributed greatly to its success. On behalf of the members of the Advisory Committee, I want to thank you for your continued support of our efforts.

## **Review of the Court Security Standards**

Members of the Standard Review Sub-Committee continues its review of the Court Security Standards and has focused their efforts on possible revisions to Standard #14 (Security Incident Reporting), Standard #15 (News Media in the Court Facility, and Standard #16 (Information and Technology Operations). The committee is currently collaborating with subject matter experts in these areas in order to suggest possible revisions for the Court’s consideration.

## **Statewide Court Security Issues**

In an effort to assist the committee in identifying and addressing key court security issues throughout the state for future consideration, members of the committee developed a comprehensive survey that was distributed to the various judicial and court personnel associations during their respective annual conferences. The information gathered as a result of the surveys will be reviewed and discussed for the committee’s consideration in 2017.

In closing, I want to thank you for your support and the continued opportunity to participate in the important work of the Supreme Court regarding court security. I welcome your feedback and suggestions on the Advisory Committee's work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. Scott Gwin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "W".

Judge W. Scott Gwin

Chair

WSG:clw