

A Look Inside of the.....
**2026 OCPOA LINE OFFICER
CONFERENCE**



On June 16th and 17th, over 415 participants, including criminal justice and social service professionals, gathered in Columbus for the 2026 OCPOA Line Officer Conference. This annual event offers an opportunity for training, networking, and presenting awards for exceptional criminal justice service.

2026 OCPOA LINE OFFICER CONFERENCE

Recognition **AWARD CEREMONY**

Molly Gauntner Stobart Line Officer of the Year Award

Taylor Fry,
Greene County Adult Probation



Dr. Ed Latessa Award

Adams County Juvenile Probation Department



2026 OCPOA LINE OFFICER CONFERENCE

Recognition **AWARD CEREMONY**



Vince Polito Award

Kimberly Switzer
(Posthumously), Hancock
County Adult Probation
Department

Excellence Award

Portage County Juvenile Probation Department



2026 OCPOA LINE OFFICER CONFERENCE

Networking ENTERTAINMENT



2026 OCPOA LINE OFFICER CONFERENCE

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Member *milestones*

OCPOA

After more than 30 years with Wayne County Adult Probation Department, Chief Probation Officer Cheryl Gerwig is retiring from a career defined by service, leadership and commitment to positive change.

Hired in 1995 as an Intensive Supervision Probation Officer, Cheryl was promoted to Senior Training Officer before becoming Chief in 2003. When reflecting on her career, Cheryl expressed her appreciation for the dedicated officers she worked alongside and the judges who supported the department's mission. She considers the greatest reward of her career to be witnessing people achieve sobriety, repair relationships, and make meaningful changes in their lives.

When asked about OCPOA, Cheryl stated, "The association connected me with my closest mentors who challenged me in all the right ways. They offered guidance, perspective, and support exactly when I needed it. Truly, some of the best decisions I made as a chief were shaped by conversations and direction I received from my mentors which has truly been an invaluable gift."

Cheryl's advice for new Chiefs: "Say yes to the committees, workgroups, and collaborative projects, and take advantage of learning from other members. There is so much wisdom and support to be offered!"

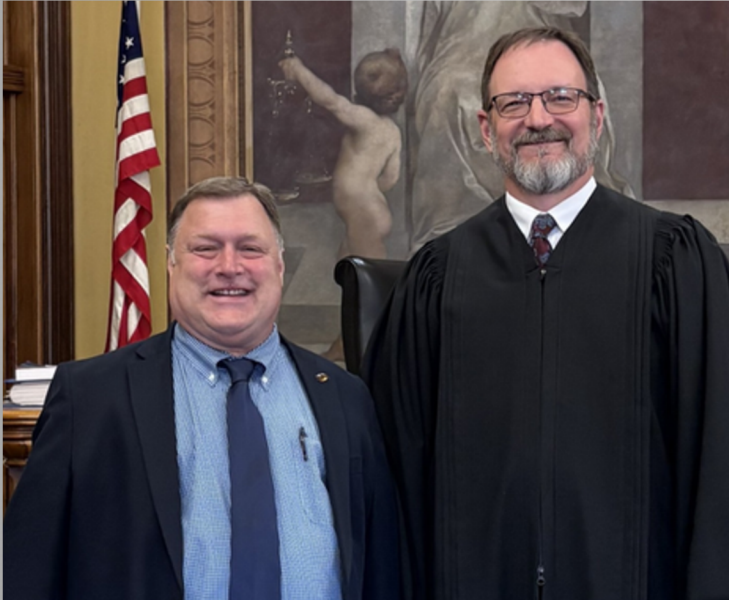
Cheryl is excited to travel, spend more time with her family, including her husband, two sons and her grandchildren. Congratulations, Cheryl!



WAYNE COUNTY
OHIO

Member *milestones*

OCPOA



The Hancock County Common Pleas Court has named Patrick P. Brzozka as Chief Probation Officer, effective June 1, 2026.

Brzozka has served as Interim Chief Probation Officer since June 2025, following the passing of longtime Chief Kimberly M. Switzer. During his interim leadership, he has overseen the department's daily operations, supervised staff, managed grant programs and budgets, and supported the court's probation and community corrections efforts.

"Patrick brings more than two decades of experience with the Hancock County Adult Probation Department, along with a strong record of leadership, professionalism, and commitment to public service," Judge Jonathan P. Starn said. "We are pleased to announce his appointment as Chief Probation Officer."

Brzozka has been with the Hancock County Common Pleas Court Adult Probation Department since March 2000 and has held a series of leadership roles. Brzozka began his career in 1992 serving in various capacities at local community behavioral health agencies and with ODRC. His background includes experience in counseling, social work, criminal justice, corrections, emergency and forensic behavioral health, risk assessment, and court management.

He holds a Master of Arts in Counseling from Heidelberg University and a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from the University of Toledo. He is also a Certified Court Manager through the National Center for State Courts, a licensed social worker in Ohio, and certified in several areas relevant to probation supervision and offender risk assessment.

"I'm truly humbled by the Court's confidence in selecting me for this role. I look forward to continuing to lead and work alongside an amazing team of professionals committed to serving our community," Brzozka said.

Located in the Allan H. Davis Judicial Center, the Hancock County Adult Probation Department serves approximately 800 probationers annually and is committed to evidence-based practices, continuous learning, and professional development.

Member *milestones*

OCPOA



Carlos Walker, Chief Probation Officer, Montgomery County:

Awarded Top 10 African American Males by Parity, Inc.

Carlos Walker is a longtime probation and court services leader who, as Director of Probation Services for the Montgomery County Common Pleas Court, exemplifies servant leadership through initiatives like Kushinda Court, civic service on the Xenia City Council, board memberships with American Probation and Parole Association 2019-2021, Ohio Supreme Court Judicial College Training Committee, TCN Behavioral Health, Sinclair Community College Sociology Department, and Dayton Leadership Academy.

He is a graduate of Central State University and a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., the first black Greek fraternity.

Carlos was elected as the first black President of the Ohio Chief Probation Officers Association in January 2025.

In 2021, Carlos and his team at Xenia Municipal Court received the George W. Farmer Award.

In 2025, he was awarded the Vincent Polito Award for excellence in executive leadership. He is passionate about hands-on mentorship and volunteer work across the Greater Dayton community.

What's coming up?

2026:

August 13-14, 2026: Quarterly Training & Membership Meeting *Virtual*

November 5-6, 2026: Quarterly Training & Membership Meeting
Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center

Looking Ahead to 2027:

May 6-7, 2027: Quarterly Training & Membership Meeting:
Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center

June 24-25 2027: Line Officer Training at Hilton Easton

November 4-5, 2027: Quarterly Training & Membership Meeting:
Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center

OCPOA

SAVE THE DATE: 2027 OCPOA Annual Line Officer Conference

**June 24-25, 2027
Hilton Columbus at Easton**

Interested in joining the Line Officer Training Committee? Please email JTice@ccclerk.org or OCPOAmanager@gmail.com



ENHANCE YOUR IMPACT: JOIN AN OCPOA COMMITTEE!

We're seeking passionate members to contribute to our mission by joining one of our dynamic committees:

- **Education and Training Committee:** Shape and deliver programs that elevate our profession. Keep current on new trends and educational needs of the membership.
- **Finance Committee:** Oversee and guide the financial health of our organization. Review and assess the annual budget and resource allocation.
- **Legislative Advocacy Committee:** Champion policies that support our community and profession. Stay engaged with new legislation and support its successful implementation.
- **Membership and Networking Committee:** Foster connections and expand our professional network. Develop strategies to improve service delivery to new and current members.


Your expertise and enthusiasm are vital to our success. By participating, you'll gain valuable experience, collaborate with peers, and make a meaningful difference in our field.



[READ MORE](#)



CALLING ALL MEMBERS:

Do you have a story, insight, or newsworthy information about staff retention in probation? We want to hear from you! Share your experiences, successes, or challenges to help highlight this important topic. 

 Send your submissions to OCPOAmanager@gmail.com.

Welcome New Members

Kristin Kaplanis, Chief of Probation
Canton Municipal Court

Jackie Carroll, Chief of Probation
Ottawa County Common Pleas Court

Brian Jamison, Chief of Probation
Barberton Municipal Court

Taylor Shelton, Chief of Probation
Montgomery County Municipal Court

William Lehr, Chief of Probation
Ottawa County Municipal Court

Zachary Riley, Chief Probation Officer
Chillicothe Municipal Court

Bradley Roudebush, Chief Probation Officer
Carroll County Municipal Court

Katie Perdue, Chief Probation Officer
Franklin Municipal Court

NEW CHIEF ROUNDTABLES

ARE YOU A CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER WITH LESS THAN 2 YEARS IN YOUR ROLE?

Our New Chief Roundtables pair mentor Chief Probation Officers with Chiefs new to their role, to troubleshoot common challenges unique to the position and to answer questions in a supportive and welcoming atmosphere. Reach out to arichardson@co.lucas.oh.us or OCPOAmanager@gmail.com to learn more.

Upcoming roundtables: Friday November 6th @ 8am - Nationwide Hotel

2026 OCPOA Board Members

Position	Name	Court	Email
President	Carlos Walker	Montgomery County Adult Probation Dept	carlos.walker@montcourt.oh.gov
Vice President	Angela Mustard	Mason Municipal Court Probation Dept	amustard@masoncourtoh.gov
Secretary	Jeremy Simpson	Mahoning County Probation Dept	jsimpson@ccaworks.org
Treasurer	Elyssa Dailey	Greene County Adult Probation	elyssa.dailey@greenecountyohio.gov
Common Pleas Court Trustee	Cheryl Gerwig	Wayne County Adult Probation Dept	cgerwig@waynecourts.org
Common Pleas Court Trustee	Ashley Richardson	Lucas County Adult Probation Dept	arichardson@co.lucas.oh.us
Municipal Court Trustee	Brittany Beard	Defiance Municipal Court	bbeard@defiancemunicipalcourt.com
Municipal Court Trustee	Elisha Zerman	Franklin County Municipal Court	elisha.zerman@franklincountymunicipalcourt.org
Juvenile Court Trustee	Jeff Cunningham	Portage County Juvenile Court	jcunningham@portageco.com
Juvenile Court Trustee	Michelle Breitigan	Allen County Juvenile Court	mbreitigan@allencountyohio.com
CCA Trustee	Kylee Uran	Bryan Municipal Court Probation	kuran@cityofbryan.com
Active Past President (Honorary Trustee)	Scott Fulton	Licking County Adult Court Services	sfulton@lcounty.com
Active Past President (Honorary Trustee)	Tom Stotts	Marion Municipal Court Probation Dept	tstotts@marionmunicipalcourt.org
Active Past President (Honorary Trustee)	Veronica Perry	Medina County Adult Probation Dept	vperry@medinacountyprobation.org
Active Past President (Honorary Trustee)	Juli Tice	Columbiana County Municipal Court	jtice@ccclerk.org