

The State House

Positive news: A new law supported by OAJ makes it easier for firefighters who are disabled by cancer to obtain workers' comp and disability benefits. Starting April 6, 2017, firefighters who incur cancer are presumed to have contracted the cancer in the course of their employment, giving them a leg up with their workers' comp and disability claim.

Medical records threat: Hospitals would be permitted to deny patients their complete medical records, according to legislation pending in the Ohio House of Representatives. The bill says that hospitals could designate what is, or is not, in a patient's medical record, which means that a hospital could deny patient access to their x-rays or to their blood test results. OAJ opposes any change that would limit patient access to their medical records.

Personal injury threat: A limit placed on damages that an injured person gets paid would not apply to rape victims and victims of sexual assault, if legislation pending in the Ohio House of Representatives is enacted. The bill springs from a 2016 Ohio Supreme Court ruling that said that a church's liability was limited in a case where a church pastor raped a young parishioner. (2014-1953: Jessica Simpkins, et al. v. Grace Brethren Church of Delaware, Ohio) OAJ supports the legislation.

Workers' Comp expansion: Police and firefighters diagnosed with PTSD would have a better chance of qualifying for workers' comp coverage and the medical care they need if legislation pending in the Ohio Senate is enacted. The bill says that first responders diagnosed with PTSD arising from employment and without an accompanying physical injury are eligible for workers' comp. OAJ supports the legislation.

The Ohio Supreme Court

OAJ reviews and comments on amendments proposed by the Ohio Supreme Court to the rules governing your practice and your client's ability to present their case.

[Amicus briefs](#)

Briefs presented by someone interested in influencing the outcome of a lawsuit but who is not a party to it.