



Shaker Heights Municipal Court

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Judge Anne Walton Keller

*Jurisdiction: Beachwood, Hunting Valley, Pepper Pike,
Shaker Heights and University Heights*

COURT COURIER

First Half of 2022

From the desk of Judge Anne Walton Keller...

This year has been both exciting and productive serving as Judge of the Shaker Heights Municipal Court. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the community in this way. I want to share some updates and enhancements to the Court's operations.

In February, we started the Court's first Domestic Violence Docket. The mission of the Domestic Violence Docket is to reduce the risk of recurring domestic violence in our community. We intend to accomplish this goal by creating a docket that gives extra attention to domestic violence cases, increases offender accountability through status hearings, and expands monitoring during the pretrial and post-conviction phases of a domestic violence case. We are also increasing collaboration with community partners (such as the Journey Center and Recovery Resources) to strengthen our resources in these cases.

Our new initiative of having a public defender (a court appointed lawyer for those who are indigent) present during criminal proceedings began in February. Some people who appear in court for criminal cases are unclear about the allegations, the law, their rights and the court system. We now have a lawyer available to meet with people from their first day in court. This helps to protect the rights of the accused and ensures their understanding of the process. The feedback concerning this program has been very positive.

We have also made some procedural changes to the Court's eviction docket. In order to balance the consequences associated with having an eviction judgment, and the landlord's interest in having a productive landlord-tenant relationship, we have started a program to mediate more eviction cases. New forms have been created to help landlords and tenants structure settlements in a way that reduces eviction judgments.

This program also focuses on increasing tenants' ability to obtain rental assistance. The Court's goal is to resolve more eviction cases through agreements between the parties.

Our next venture is updating the Court's website. We recently sought and were awarded a technology grant from the Supreme Court of Ohio that will fund this project. The website will include a new and improved online docket system that is more user friendly for the public and attorneys.

I look forward to sharing updates on this project and our other changes in the next Court Courier!

Best Wishes,



Judge Anne Walton Keller

Judicial Swearing-in Ceremony January 2022



Retired Judge K.J. Montgomery swearing-in Judge Anne Walton Keller



Retired Judge K.J. Montgomery, Judge Mary Jane Trapp,
Judge Anne Walton Keller and Ohio Supreme Court Justice Jennifer Brunner



Ohio's New Carrying Concealed Weapon Law

The United States and Ohio Constitution guarantee an individual the right to bear arms, but that right has limits. The Supreme Court of the United States and Ohio have ruled that limitations may be placed on the exercise of an individual's right to bear arms. One such limitation is an Ohio statute requiring a license in order to carry a concealed weapon. However, this statute has been changed in important ways by Senate Bill 215, which was signed into law on March 14th and will take effect on June 13th.

After Senate Bill 215 takes effect, Ohio will become one of 23 states to allow its citizens to carry concealed weapons without a permit. In a trend known as "Constitutional Carry," states such as Alaska, Alabama, Texas, and now Ohio, have passed legislation which allow any "qualifying adult" to carry a concealed handgun that is not a "restricted firearm" without a permit. The Ohio legislature has defined "qualifying adult" in SB 215 as a "person who is 21 years of age or older and who is not legally prohibited from possessing or receiving a firearm under specified federal or state law." A "restricted firearm" is a firearm that is a dangerous ordnance or a firearm that any law of this state or the United States prohibits the person from possessing, having, or carrying.

Prior to Senate Bill 215, Ohio citizens who wished to carry a concealed weapon were required to complete eight hours of firearm training and undergo a background check by law enforcement. Once a CCW license was obtained, license holders were required to follow certain procedures while interacting with law enforcement officers (usually during traffic stops). These procedures included the requirement to promptly disclose that the person had been issued a concealed handgun license and possessed a weapon on their person or in their vehicle. Under current law, failure to notify is generally a first degree misdemeanor and results in the suspension of the licensee's concealed handgun license.

Once Senate Bill 215 goes into effect, those legally possessing a concealed weapon are no longer required to promptly disclose that they are carrying a firearm. Instead they must disclose only in response to direct questioning from law enforcement. In eliminating the notification requirement described above, the bill also removes the criminal penalties associated with the failure to follow those requirements. Now, failure to disclose a concealed weapon when questioned can result in being charged with a misdemeanor of the second degree.

Even after Senate Bill 215 takes effect on June 13, 2022 it will still be illegal to carry a weapon into many buildings including a school, a court house or any building that contains a court, and a liquor permit establishment.

Staff Swearing-in

Judge Keller appoints new Bailiff Rob Williams



Judge Keller appoints Magistrate Kyle Ripma to hear Civil and Small Claims cases



Judge Keller appoints Magistrates Gregory Gentile and Leslie Johns who hear our traffic and DUS arraignments



Judge Keller appoints new Bailiff Phillip Coe



City Council Swearing-in



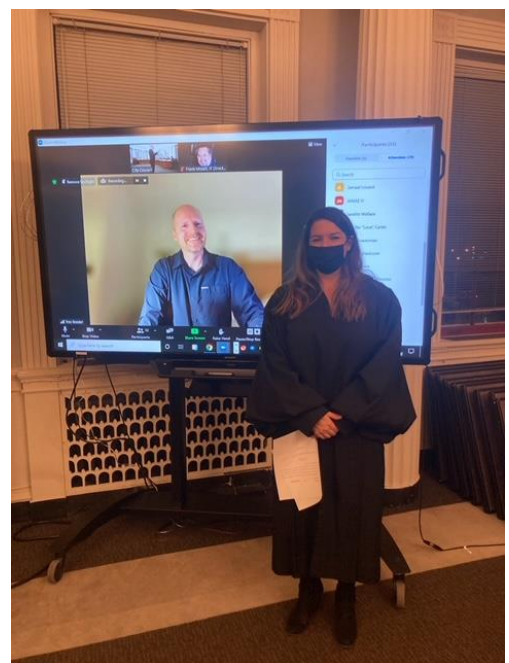
Judge Keller swears-in Council for the City of Pepper Pike. From left are returning Councilperson Scott Newell, Councilperson Cathy Hwang, Mayor Richard Bain, Judge Anne Walton Keller, Councilperson Melanie Weltman and Councilperson Emmy Zatroch

Judge Keller swears-in City of Beachwood Councilperson Joshua Mintz



Judge Keller swears-in City of Shaker Heights Councilperson Anne Williams

Judge Keller virtually swears-in City of Shaker Heights Councilperson Tres Roeder



Judge K.J. Montgomery
27 years as Judge
Shaker Heights Municipal Court



Judge K.J. Montgomery retired as Judge of the Shaker Heights Court after 27 years on August 1, 2021.

Judge Montgomery started her term in 1994, her service and dedication to the Court, the jurisdiction and the legal community was extraordinary and will be greatly missed.

In retirement, Judge Montgomery is enjoying traveling and gardening.

The court and community wish her all the best!

**HAVE A SAFE AND
HEALTHY SUMMER!!**

**JUDGE ANNE WALTON KELLER
AND THE STAFF OF THE
SHAKER HEIGHTS MUNICIPAL COURT**

