



CRIMINAL SENTENCING COMMISSION

OHIO CRIMINAL SENTENCING COMMISSION MEETING

September 25, 2025, 10am-12pm

Ohio Judicial Center, Room 101

MEMBERS PRESENT

Sharon L. Kennedy, Chief Justice, Chair
Darren Shulman, Municipal Prosecutor, Vice-Chair
Brooke Burns, Ohio Public Defender, Juvenile Department
Annette Chambers-Smith, Director, Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections
Charles Chandler, Peace Officer
Robert DeLamatre, Judge, Juvenile Court
Julia Dorrian, Judge, 10th District Court of Appeals
Kyle Erdeljac, Lieutenant, Columbus Police Department, FOP
Timothy France, Judge, Municipal Court
Gwen Howe-Gebers, County Prosecutor, Juvenile
Kristen Johnson, Judge, Probate and Juvenile Court
Charles Jones, Colonel, State Highway Patrol
Teri LaJeunesse, Victim Representative
Timothy Lanzendorfer, Ohio State Bar Association
Nathan Manning, Ohio Senate
Charles McConville, County Prosecutor
Stephen McIntosh, Judge, Common Pleas Court
Elizabeth Miller, Ohio Public Defender
Jennifer Muench-McElfresh, Judge, Common Pleas Court
Kyle Rohrer, Judge Municipal Court
Nick Selvaggio, Judge, Common Pleas Court
Justin Stanek, Designee of Director, Department of Youth Services
Helen Wallace, Judge, Juvenile Court
Donnie Willis, County Commissioner
Tyrone Yates, Judge, Municipal Court

MEMBERS ABSENT

John Hinton, Sheriff
Latyna Humphrey, House of Representatives
Catherine Ingram, Ohio Senate
Josh Williams, House of Representatives

STAFF PRESENT

Michael Crofford, M.Ed., LPC, Research Specialist
Will Davies, Esq., Criminal Justice Counsel
Angela Kay Garvey, Coordinator
Emily S. Haynes, Esq., M.L.S., Criminal Justice Counsel
Todd Ives, MPA, Research Specialist
Alex T. Jones, Esq., Criminal Justice Counsel



Call to Order and Roll Call

1. Chief Justice Sharon Kennedy called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Criminal Justice Council William Davies took a roll call, and a quorum was present.

Approval of minutes from May 8, 2025

2. Chief Justice Kennedy asked if there were any corrections to the May 8, 2025, minutes. None were suggested. Judge Tyrone Yates motioned to approve the minutes. Judge Nick Selvaggio seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2026 Full Commission Meeting Dates Discussion—Proposed Dates

3. Chief Justice Kennedy stated a survey had been sent to commissioners asking for the dates that worked best for them for next year's Commission meetings. The dates listed on the agenda (March 12, May 14, September 10, and December 10) were those with the most commissioners available and avoided various conferences, trainings, and other obligations. Gwen Howe-Gebers motioned to accept the 2026 dates, and Judge Selvaggio seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Adult Criminal Justice Committee

4. Judge Stephen McIntosh reported that the committee finalized a Presentence Investigation (PSI) Reference Guide to inform people what they should and shouldn't include in a PSI. The Commission discussed the guide and suggested some edits. Director Annette Chambers-Smith motioned to approve the guide for publication with the suggested edits; Judge Tyrone Yates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
5. Judge McIntosh then discussed the completion of the Adult Sentencing Appellate Report on sentencing reversals and its usefulness in identifying patterns for training on consistent errors and mistakes. After some discussion, Judge Julia Dorrian motioned to approve the report with the recommended edits for publication. Judge Jennifer Muench-McElfresh seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
6. The updated Uniform Sentencing Entry was presented with added language from the recent Supreme Court decision in *State v. Logan*, Slip Opinion No. 2025-Ohio-1772. Judge McIntosh motioned to approve it for publication. Judge Yates seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Judge McIntosh noted that the committee would be working on flow charts in the upcoming meetings and hopes to have those for a vote at the Commission meeting in December.

Juvenile Justice Committee

8. Judge Robert DeLamatre reported that the committee will be working on materials for Serious Youthful Offender (SYO) proceedings going forward to assist juvenile judges in handling adult issues. The committee will also be working on a checklist of juvenile terms and a flowchart of the juvenile system to be presented.
9. Judge DeLamatre presented the updated Juvenile Disposition Bench Card, noting it discusses juvenile disposition generally. The Commission suggested a few edits. Judge DeLamatre motioned to accept the edits and publish the document, it was seconded by Lt. Kyle Erdeljac. The motion passed unanimously.
10. The Juvenile Appellate Report was presented to the Commission for publication. Judge DeLamatre motioned for its publication, Judge Dorrian seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
11. The Juvenile Justice History was presented for review and approval. Judge DeLamatre motioned for its publication, Timothy Lanzendorfer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Data Committee

12. Chief Justice Kennedy reported that the committee had a presentation from Chris NiCastro, the Deputy Director of the Office of Criminal Justice Recovery at the Department of Behavioral Health formerly the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, on the department's behavioral health programming in coordination with the criminal justice system.
13. Chief Justice Kennedy presented the R.C. 181.27 report, which includes involuntary commitment data from probate courts, and asked for any comments. Seeing none, Judge Yates motioned to approve the report for publication, Vice-Chair Darren Shulman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
14. Chief Justice Kennedy also presented the two data maps for data housed by the Office of the Ohio Public Defender and the Supreme Court of Ohio Court Statistics. The maps are designed to provide people with resources to access information and see who holds it. Chief Charles Chandler motioned to approve and publish the data maps. It was seconded by Judge McIntosh. The motion passed unanimously.

Personnel Committee

15. Chief Justice Kennedy moved to enter an executive session to discuss personnel matters. Mr. Davies took a roll call and the motion was passed unanimously.
16. Upon completion of discussion, the Commission returned from executive session. Chief Justice Kennedy moved to terminate the executive session, with Vice-Chair Shulman seconding. The motion passed unanimously.
17. Judge Yates moved to appoint criminal justice counsel Will Davies as Interim Executive Director, and that the salary as Director be backdated to the day after Melissa Knopp's last day, with the appointment and salary change to terminate upon her return. The motion was seconded by Judge Dorrian. The motion passed unanimously.
18. The Commission also discussed revisions to the Operating Guidelines for a second time. Chief Chandler motioned to update the guidelines to allow for one remote attendance a year, and to remove the requirement to present Operating Guideline amendments twice before allowing a vote. Colonel Charles Jones seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Legislative Update

19. Criminal Justice Counsel Alex T. Jones reported that written legislative update was accurate to September 17, 2025, but noted it did not include Senate Bill 270, which was introduced September 23, 2025, by Senators Nathan Manning and Paula Hicks-Hudson. The bill implements several recommendations from the Governor's Juvenile Justice Working Group's July 2024 report.

Old Business

20. Vice-Chair Shulman spoke briefly about his attendance at the National Association of Sentencing Commission's conference. He highly recommended Commissioner's attend it, if they have the opportunity noting the excellent education and opportunity to get to know the Commission staff.

New Business

21. Chief Chandler announced he would be resigning from the Commission as he was starting a new role that would no longer qualify for his seat. He thanked the Commission for the opportunity to serve. He noted he would be leaving a vacancy on the Personnel Committee and asked for volunteers. Chief Justice Kennedy motioned for Director Chambers-Smith to join the Personnel Committee. Judge Yates seconded. The motion passed unanimously.



22. Chief Justice Kennedy moved to allow all publications and reports shared with the Supreme Court of Ohio to be published on the Resources for the Bench website. Judge Yates seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn

23. Director Chambers-Smith motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Vice-Chair Shulman. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.