



Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission Meeting

March 12, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Ohio Judicial Center, Room 281

Members Present

Sharon L. Kennedy, Chief Justice, Chair
Darren Shulman, Municipal Prosecutor, Vice-Chair
Amy Ast, Director, Department of Youth Services
Brooke Burns, Ohio Public Defender, Juvenile Department
Matthew Byrnes, Defense Attorney (*Online*)
Annette Chambers-Smith, Director, Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections
Eamon Costello, Judge, Common Pleas Court
Robert DeLamatre, Judge Juvenile Court
Kyle Erdeljac, Lieutenant, Columbus Police Department, FOP
Timothy France, Judge, Municipal Court
Gwen Howe-Gebers, County Prosecutor, Juvenile
Catherine Ingram, Ohio Senate (*Online*)
Kristen Johnson, Judge, Probate and Juvenile Court
Charles Jones, Colonel, State Highway Patrol
Timothy Lanzendorfer, Ohio State Bar Association
Teri LaJeunesse, Victim Representative
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
Janaya Trotter Bratton, Judge, Municipal Court
Josh Williams, House of Representatives (*Online*)
Donnie Willis, County Commissioner

Members Absent

Julia Dorrian, Judge, 10th District Court of Appeals
John Hinton, Sheriff
Latyna Humphrey, House of Representatives
Kyle Rohrer, Judge Municipal Court
Helen Wallace, Judge, Juvenile Court

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



Call to Order and Roll Call

1. Chief Justice Sharon Kennedy called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Director Melissa Knopp took a roll call, and a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes from December 18, 2025

2. Chief Justice Kennedy asked if there were any corrections to the December 18, 2025, minutes. None were suggested. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Gwen Howe-Gebers and seconded by Judge Kristin Johnson. The motion passed, with Judge Eamon Costello abstaining.

Introduction of New Commission Members

3. Chief Justice Kennedy welcomed Judge Eamon Costello and Judge Janaya Trotter Bratton to the Commission and asked them to introduce themselves to the group.

Committee Reports

Adult Criminal Justice Committee

4. Judge Stephen McIntosh provided an update on recent committee activity and presented the updated Felony Sentencing Reference Guide and noted its major changes, including cell phones under illegal conveyance, updating the Alford Plea, and adding if the victim committed suicide to sentencing factors. After a brief discussion, Judge McIntosh motioned to approve the updated Felony Sentencing Reference Guide for publishing, with Judge Jennifer Muench-McElfresh seconding. The motion passed unanimously.
5. Judge McIntosh then introduced the updated Felony Sentencing Bench Card and explained it reflects the same changes as the reference guide. He moved to approve the Felony Sentencing Bench Card for publication, with Darren Shulman seconding. The motion passed unanimously.
6. Judge McIntosh presented the updated Competency Guide to the Commission, noting the revisions reflect the statutory changes in competency restoration timelines. Judge McIntosh moved to approve the Competency Guide for publication, with Chip McConville seconding. The motion passed unanimously.
7. Chief Kennedy moved to add all of the revised materials to the Resources for the Bench page on the Supreme Court website, with Judge Muench-McElfresh seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

Juvenile Justice Committee

8. Judge Robert DeLamatre reported the committee had met a few times, and reintroduced the Juvenile Justice Terminology Resource Guide with the recommended modifications from the last meeting. Commission members complimented the changes, but made other

recommendations for the list. After a discussion, the Commission decided to send the document back to the committee for more changes.

Data Committee

9. Chief Justice Kennedy introduced two data maps for approval and publication, each of which were reviewed by their respective departments for accuracy. Chief Justice Kennedy motioned to approve the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) Data Map and was seconded by Director Chamber-Smith. The motion passed unanimously.
10. Chief Justice Kennedy moved to approve the Ohio Department of Behavioral Health (ODBH) Data Map and was seconded by Judge Jennifer McIntosh. The motion passed unanimously.

Personnel Committee

11. Chief Justice Kennedy reported the committee had met and removed the 'at will' employment language in the legislative counsel job posting after conferring with the Department of Administrative Services and the Attorney General's Office. Chief Justice Kennedy moved to accept the posting, with Gwen Howe-Gebers seconding. The motion passed unanimously.
12. Chief Justice Kennedy asked Director Knopp to go through the other staff positions to make sure the legal language is correct, to bring before the Commission in May for approval. She also noted the committee will interview and suggest a candidate at the next Commission meeting.

Legislative Update

13. Director Knopp reported a paper copy of the update had been provided and an electronic copy would be sent out after the meeting. She noted the Legislative Service Commission asked the Commission to provide an opinion on Senate Bill 291, and the staff were working with ODRC to get the data to respond.

Old Business

14. No old business was discussed.

New Business

15. Director Knopp notified the Commission the National Association of Sentencing Commission's conference is August 12-14, 2026 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and asked any Commission members interested in attending to reach out to her. It is her intention to request the funds for three staff and two Commissioners to attend at the next meeting, however, if more than two Commissioners are interested, funds for additional attendees can be requested.



Adjourn

16. Chief Justice Kennedy motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Judge Costello. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.