

The Supreme Court of Ohio

CASE ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 3, 2025

[Cite as *12/03/2025 Case Announcements*, 2025-Ohio-5386.]

MERIT DECISIONS WITH OPINIONS

2025-0424. Sparks v. Frederick, Slip Opinion No. 2025-Ohio-5370.

Marion App. No. 9-24-58. Judgment affirmed.

Kennedy, C.J., and Fischer, DeWine, Brunner, Deters, Hawkins, and Shanahan, JJ., concur.

2025-0429. State ex rel. Papageorgiou v. Avalotis Corp, Slip Opinion No. 2025-Ohio-5371.

Franklin App. No. 23AP-689, [2025-Ohio-846](#). Judgment affirmed.

Kennedy, C.J., and Fischer, DeWine, Brunner, Deters, Hawkins, and Shanahan, JJ., concur.

2025-0792. Disciplinary Counsel v. Mollica, Slip Opinion No. 2025-Ohio-5372.

On Certified Report of the Board of Professional Conduct, No. [2024-034](#). Matthew Christopher Mollica of Cambridge, Ohio, Attorney Registration No. 0097415, suspended from the practice of law for one year conditionally stayed.

Kennedy, C.J., and Fischer, DeWine, Deters, Hawkins, and Shanahan, JJ., concur.

Brunner, J., not participating.

MERIT DECISIONS WITHOUT OPINIONS

2025-1008. Scales v. McMonagle.

In Mandamus and Prohibition. On respondent's motion to dismiss. Motion granted. Cause dismissed.

Kennedy, C.J., and Fischer, DeWine, Brunner, Deters, Hawkins, and Shanahan, JJ., concur.

2025-1119. Tichavakunda v. Cuyahoga Cty. Court of Common Pleas.

In Mandamus and Prohibition. On motion to dismiss of respondents Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office, George Rukovena, former Court of Common Pleas Judge Bridget M. McCafferty, and Cuyahoga County Clerk of Courts. Motion granted. Sua sponte, cause dismissed as to respondents Robert Williams and the late Richard Agopian. Cause dismissed.

Kennedy, C.J., and Fischer, DeWine, Brunner, Deters, Hawkins, and Shanahan, JJ., concur.

2025-1129. State ex rel. Rielinger v. Russo.

In Mandamus and Prohibition. On respondent's motion to dismiss. Motion granted. Relator's motion to disqualify Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Michael C. O'Malley and Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office as counsel for respondent or, in the alternative, to strike their appearance denied. Relator's motion to strike motion to dismiss, motion for sanctions against respondent, motion for leave to file amended complaint, emergency motion for referral to the Ohio Attorney General and the United States Department of Justice, "motion to strike filings," motion for referral to the Office of Disciplinary Counsel and the United States Department of Justice, emergency notice and request for immediate intervention and stay of hearing scheduled for November 12, 2025, denied. Relator's motion to strike respondent's opposition and for immediate issuance of writ, immediate stay, and sanctions denied. Relator's revised emergency motion to declare bench warrant void denied. Relator's motion to strike respondent's motion and to vacate November 12, 2025 hearing denied as moot. Cause dismissed.

Kennedy, C.J., and Fischer, DeWine, Brunner, Deters, Hawkins, and Shanahan, JJ., concur.

2025-1135. State ex rel. Cook v. Summit Cty. Clerk of Courts.

In Mandamus. On respondent's motion to dismiss and notice of mootness. Motion granted. Cause dismissed.

Kennedy, C.J., and Fischer, DeWine, Brunner, Deters, Hawkins, and Shanahan, JJ., concur.

2025-1156. State ex rel. Saunders v. Cuyahoga Cty. Court of Common Pleas.

In Mandamus. On respondent's motion to dismiss amended complaint. Motion granted. Cause dismissed.

Kennedy, C.J., and Fischer, DeWine, Brunner, Deters, Hawkins, and Shanahan, JJ., concur.

2025-1160. Minton v. Adams Cty. Common Pleas Court.

Miscellaneous case. On relator's "amended motion that no final appealable order exists in Adams County case No. CV20230218." Motion denied. Respondents' motions to dismiss granted. Relator's "amended motion proposing plaintiff's sovereign citizenship grounds for immediate dismissal," amended motion for judicial notice of foreign awards, amended motion for order to convert tort action into prohibition action, and demand for discovery denied. Respondents' motion to strike motion to convert denied. Cause dismissed.

Kennedy, C.J., and Fischer, DeWine, Brunner, Deters, Hawkins, and Shanahan, JJ., concur.

2025-1166. State ex rel. Justice v. O'Shaughnessy.

In Mandamus. On respondents' motion to dismiss. Motion granted. Cause dismissed.

Kennedy, C.J., and Brunner, Deters, and Shanahan, JJ., concur.

Fischer, DeWine, and Hawkins, JJ., concur and would sua sponte declare relator to be a vexatious litigator.

2025-1169. State ex rel. Wasserman v. Mackey.

In Mandamus. On respondent's motion to dismiss. Motion granted. Cause dismissed.

Kennedy, C.J., and Fischer, DeWine, Brunner, Deters, Hawkins, and Shanahan, JJ., concur.

2025-1172. State ex rel. Black v. Alachua Cty. Sheriff's Office.

In Mandamus. Cause dismissed pursuant to Rule 12.04.

Kennedy, C.J., and Fischer, DeWine, Brunner, Deters, Hawkins, and Shanahan, JJ., concur.

2025-1174. Lattimore v. Ohio Bar Assn.

Miscellaneous case. On “admission without examination by order of the Supreme Court.” Request denied. Respondent’s motion to dismiss granted. Relator’s motion for leave to file amended complaint denied. Cause dismissed.

Kennedy, C.J., and Fischer, DeWine, Brunner, Deters, Hawkins, and Shanahan, JJ., concur.

2025-1183. State ex rel. Whiteside v. Miller.

In Mandamus. On respondent’s motion to dismiss. Motion denied as moot. Sua sponte, cause dismissed as moot.

Kennedy, C.J., and Fischer, DeWine, Brunner, Deters, Hawkins, and Shanahan, JJ., concur.

2025-1189. State ex rel. Tingler v. Brown.

In Mandamus. On respondent’s motion to dismiss. Motion granted. Relator’s motion to require proof of authority for private counsel and to clarify proper respondent denied. Cause dismissed.

Kennedy, C.J., and DeWine, Deters, Hawkins, and Shanahan, JJ., concur.

Fischer, J., concurs and would sua sponte again declare relator to be a vexatious litigator.

Brunner, J., concurs in part and dissents in part and would deny respondent’s motion, order respondent to file an answer, and issue an alternative writ.

2025-1199. State ex rel. Richards v. O’Malley.

In Mandamus. On respondent’s motion to dismiss. Motion granted. Cause dismissed.

Kennedy, C.J., and Fischer, DeWine, Brunner, Deters, Hawkins, and Shanahan, JJ., concur.

2025-1201. State ex rel. Nixon v. Miller.

In Mandamus. On respondent’s motion to dismiss. Motion granted. Cause dismissed.

Fischer, DeWine, Deters, Hawkins, and Shanahan, JJ., concur.

Kennedy, C.J., dissents and would order respondent to file an answer and would issue an alternative writ for the reasons set forth in her dissenting opinion in *State ex rel. Jordan v. Dept. of Rehab. & Corr.*, [2025-Ohio-3051](#).

Brunner, J., dissents and would order respondent to file an answer and would issue an alternative writ.

2025-1204. State ex rel. Taylor v. O'Malley.

In Mandamus. On respondent's motion to dismiss amended complaint. Motion granted. Cause dismissed.

Kennedy, C.J., and Fischer, DeWine, Brunner, Deters, Hawkins, and Shanahan, JJ., concur.

2025-1231. State ex rel. King-Malone v. Gill.

In Quo Warranto. On relator's motion for peremptory writ or, alternatively, for default judgment and ancillary relief. Motion denied. Respondent's motion to dismiss granted. Relator's motion for acceptance of declaration in lieu of affidavit and proposed request for recusal and declaration-affidavit denied. Cause dismissed.

Kennedy, C.J., and Fischer, DeWine, Brunner, Deters, Hawkins, and Shanahan, JJ., concur.

2025-1238. Wilcox v. Fankhauser.

In Procedendo. On respondent's motion to dismiss. Motion granted. Cause dismissed.

Kennedy, C.J., and Fischer, DeWine, Brunner, Deters, Hawkins, and Shanahan, JJ., concur.

2025-1244. Cooper v. Kennedy.

Miscellaneous case. On relator's "motion of discovery and exculpatory evidence." Motion denied. Relator's "motion of forfeiture" denied. Respondent's motion to dismiss granted. Cause dismissed.

Kennedy, C.J., and Fischer, DeWine, Brunner, Deters, Hawkins, and Shanahan, JJ., concur.

2025-1255. State ex rel. Jabbar v. Bryant.

In Mandamus and Prohibition. On respondents' motion to dismiss. Motion granted. Cause dismissed.

Kennedy, C.J., and Fischer, DeWine, Brunner, Deters, Hawkins, and Shanahan, JJ., concur.

2025-1259. State ex rel. Mack v. Richland Cty. Sheriff's Office.

In Mandamus. On motion to dismiss of respondent Richland County Sheriff's Office. Motion granted. Sua sponte, cause dismissed as to respondent Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation. Cause dismissed.

Fischer, DeWine, Deters, Hawkins, and Shanahan, JJ., concur.

Brunner, J., concurs in part and dissents in part and would issue an alternative writ as to respondent Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation.

Kennedy, C.J., dissents and would order respondent Richland County Sheriff's Office to file an answer and would issue an alternative writ as to both respondents.

2025-1264. State ex rel. Alford v. Diehl.

In Mandamus. On respondent's motion to dismiss. Motion granted. Cause dismissed.

Fischer, DeWine, Brunner, Deters, Hawkins, and Shanahan, JJ., concur.

Kennedy, C.J., dissents and would order respondent to file an answer and would issue an alternative writ for the reasons set forth in her dissenting opinion in *State ex rel. Jordan v. Dept. of Rehab. & Corr.*, [2025-Ohio-3051](#).

2025-1291. State ex rel. Moss v. Hamilton Cty. Court of Common Pleas.

In Mandamus. On respondent's motion to dismiss. Motion granted. Cause dismissed.

Kennedy, C.J., and Fischer, DeWine, Brunner, Deters, Hawkins, and Shanahan, JJ., concur.

2025-1460. State ex rel. Rielinger v. Mona.

In Mandamus and Prohibition. On relator's request for immediate stay and accounting hearing. Request denied. Relator's emergency motion for immediate stay of execution pending review and emergency motion for immediate release of property denied. Respondent Cleveland Municipal Judge Scott J. Mona's motion to dismiss granted. Sua sponte, cause dismissed as to Eighth District Court of Appeals Judge Eileen Gallagher. Cause dismissed.

Kennedy, C.J., and Fischer, DeWine, Brunner, Deters, Hawkins, and Shanahan, JJ., concur.

MOTION AND PROCEDURAL RULINGS

2024-1676. State ex rel. Suggs v. Watson.

In Mandamus. On relator's "relief from judgment or order." Request denied.

2025-0053. State ex rel. Suggs v. Watson.

In Mandamus. On relator's "relief from judgment or order." Request denied.

Brunner, J., dissents.

2025-0753. Sheetz, Inc. v. Centerville.

Certified Question of State Law, United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio, Western Division, No. 3:24-CV-59. On review pursuant to Rule 9.05(B), this court will answer the following question: "Whether a party must bring affirmative claims for damages and declaratory relief within an R.C. [Ch.] 2506 administrative appeal to avoid res judicata." Petitioners shall file their merit brief within 40 days, and the parties shall otherwise proceed in accordance with S.Ct.Prac.R. 16.02 through 16.04 and S.Ct.Prac.R. 9.07. Petitioners' motion to strike respondent Mark R. Chilson's merit brief denied.

DeWine, J., dissents in part and would decline to answer the question and would deny the motion as moot.

Brunner, J., dissents in part and would grant the motion in part and would strike respondent Mark Chilson's name from the brief.

2025-1142. State ex rel. Utz v. Parikh.

In Mandamus. Sua sponte, alternative writ granted. The following schedule is set for the presentation of evidence and filing of briefs pursuant to Rule 12.05: The parties shall file any evidence they intend to present within 20 days of the court's entry, relator shall file a brief within 30 days of the court's entry, respondent shall file a brief within 20 days after the filing of relator's brief, and relator may file a reply brief within 7 days after the filing of respondent's brief.

2025-1224. In re A.S.

Summit App. No. 31183, [2025-Ohio-1349](#). On review of order certifying a conflict. The court determines that a conflict exists. The parties are to brief the issue as stated on page 1 of the court of appeals' September 18, 2025 entry: "When, after a child is adjudicated dependent, the child's natural parent regains legal custody and the juvenile court closes the case, may the trial court subsequently award custody to a nonparent without first finding that the natural parent is presently unsuitable?" The conflict case is *In re B.K.*, [2013-Ohio-1190](#) (8th Dist.). Sua sponte, cause consolidated with case No. [2025-1225](#).

DeWine and Hawkins, JJ., dissent.

APPEALS ACCEPTED FOR REVIEW

2025-1225. In re A.S.

Summit App. No. 31183, [2025-Ohio-1349](#). Sua sponte, cause consolidated with case No. [2025-1224](#).

DeWine, J., dissents.