WBA & WBF

Ohio Women's Bar Association | Ohio Women's Bar Foundation

October 2026 Newsletter

Dear OWBA Members,

As we move into Fall, we are excited to share another issue of the OWBA newsletter, highlighting the many ways our members are learning, connecting, leading, and serving across Ohio. This issue looks back at recent events, including our Leading the Way celebration, the first session of the OWBF Leadership Institute, and our estate-planning partnership with Community Legal Aid and Destiny Church in Twinsburg, while also previewing upcoming opportunities to connect, including the next In-House Coffee & Conversations, and the launch of our 2026-27 Coaching Circles.

I hope you will take a few minutes to explore this issue, join us at an upcoming event, consider connecting with one of our committees, and help us continue building a vibrant, welcoming, and impactful professional community for women across Ohio.

Warmly,

Lavell Payne Brown
President, Ohio Women's Bar Association

Upcoming Events:

The next **In-house Coffee & Conversations** will be on **November 6th at 9:30AM**. It will focus on mental health and well-being, and feature Kimberly Blair, MA, LPCC-S, Senior Director of Workplace Health at Mental Health America of Ohio. Join us! REGISTER HERE

Session 2 of the **OWBF Leadership Institute** will take place in Columbus, at Dinsmore & Shohl, on **Friday, October 16**. The topic for this session is Confidence and Owning Your Voice and will feature speakers Elizabeth Murch of the Central Ohio Transit Authority, Karen Hough from ImprovEdge, Lindsay Karas Stencel from Thompson Hine, Yolanda Owens of Colloquy, LLC, Kourtni Hatton of the United Way of Central Ohio, and Tareya Palmer of Tides.

Committee Corner

Our **2026-27 Coaching Circle committee** is working hard to form groups – we had 83 people fill out the application! Groups will be finalized soon, and we plan to get started mid-October.

The OWBA has several committees! If you're looking for a low stress, high impact way to connect, consider joining an OWBA committee:

Annual Meeting
Professional Development / Coaching Circles
Communications
Community Service
Finance and Audit
Governance
Government Lawyers
In-House Lawyers
Leading the Way
Membership
Nominating
Bar Association
Law School

To join a committee, please email owbaexec@gmail.com.

Past Events:

Leading the Way

Our Leading the Way celebration took place on September 17, at the Perez Morris Cleveland Office. Click here to see photos! This year's theme was: '35 Years of Women's Leadership - Trailblazers, Torchbearers, and the Future of the Legal Profession', and featured an outstanding panel discussion with Kerin Lyn Kaminski (Perez Morris), Judge Katarina Cook (Summit County Domestic Relations Court), Former Justice Melody J. Stewart (Ohio Supreme Court) and Bethany Studenic (Employment Law Partners). The event had an amazing turnout, bringing together attorneys, judges, and legal professionals from across the region. It was wonderful to reconnect with longtime friends and colleagues while also building new relationships and expanding our professional networks. The evening was a powerful celebration of women's leadership, and the impact women continue to have on the legal profession.

Leadership Institute

The 2026-27 OWBF Leadership Institute had their first session at Benesch Friedlander Coplan & Aronoff in Cleveland on September 18, with a Happy Hour afterwards. The topic for Session 1 was 'Discovering Your Leadership Style/Authentic Leadership', and featured speakers Jen Blaga and Jillian Boone; current OWBA President Lavell Payne Brown moderated a Fireside chat with guests, Stephanie Adams, Senior Corporate Counsel, Sherwin Williams, and Diana Starks, retired, Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland.

OWBA Partnered to Provide Estate-Planning Services to 25 Community Members

On Saturday, September 26th, the Ohio Women's Bar Association partnered with Community Legal Aid and Destiny Church to provide an estate-planning clinic for local community members in Twinsburg for residents of Summit, Portage, and Stark counties. With training, guidance, and supervision from Community Legal Aid, 21 volunteers across the three organizations helped 25 people complete wills and other essential estate-planning documents.

The volunteers included attorneys, law students, prospective law students, and church volunteers. Together, they helped families take important steps to protect what they have built and plan for the future. Participants were energized by the experience and excited for the next opportunity to serve.

We would love to grow these efforts statewide and explore the possibility of an OWBA Pro Bono Day in 2027. If you are interested in volunteering or helping build a new pro bono partnership, please reach out. Many hands make light work!

Job Board

One of the greatest benefits of being part of the Ohio Women's Bar Association is access to a statewide network of women who are learning, leading, growing, and creating new opportunities throughout the legal profession. As we begin a new month, we invite you to take a few moments to explore the career opportunities currently being shared with the OWBA community. Whether you are actively considering your next move, simply curious about what opportunities are available, or know a colleague who may be the perfect fit, please take a look and share these openings with others in your network. OWBA Job Board

Membership

Not an OWBA member? Now is the time to join: JOIN HERE

You can see a full calendar of events on our website home page:
https://www.owba.org/

Don’t forget to follow us on **LinkedIn!**
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OWBF LinkedIn