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Legal Insights

Practical Legal Solutions

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House Bill 8: “Parents’ Bill of Rights”

by Ben Cooper and Samantha Lonsinger

On January 8th Governor Mike DeWine signed House Bill 8 into law. The new law, known as the “Parents’ Bill of Rights,” states that the Ohio General Assembly maintains that a parent has a fundamental right to make decisions concerning the upbringing, education, and care of their child. Enactment of the Parents’ Bill of Rights has been controversial, with supporters of the bill arguing that parents, not educators or government officials, should have the right to make important decisions involving healthcare and education for their children, while opponents believe the new law threatens LGBTQ+ student safety and violates student privacy. Pursuant to the law, by July 1, 2025 schools must adopt a policy with specific requirements and prohibitions related to “student mental, emotional, or physical well-being” and “sexuality content.”

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Immigration Developments Under the Trump Administration

by Annie Grove and Brad Ortman

Soon after being sworn in as President for the second time, President Trump issued several Executive Orders to implement his mass deportation agenda and sharply break from the immigration policies and priorities of the previous administration. Below we summarize a few of the Executive Orders issued and predictions for forthcoming immigration related matters.

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How Does Ohio Law Treat Transgender Individuals?

by Rob Chaloupka

2024 was an especially active year, both at the Ohio Statehouse and in the courts, when it came to matters directly impacting the LGBTQ+ community in general, and transgender individuals in particular. While some of these developments impacted individual people on a very personal level, others have broad implications for employers, educators and families.

The year began with the Ohio General Assembly overriding Governor Mike DeWine's veto of House Bill 68, a combination of the "Saving Adolescents From Experimentation" Act (prohibiting the prescription and use of puberty-blocking drugs and hormone treatments "for the purpose of gender transition" for anyone under 18 years of age) and the "Save Women's Sports" Act (forbidding individuals assigned male at birth from participating in girls' and women's interscholastic sports at all grade levels, from elementary school through college).

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Ohio Workers' Compensation Law – Things to Watch in 2025

by Donald Drinko

2024 Was certainly an eventful year for Ohio employers, as well as for Ohio workers compensation lawyers. After a lull in activity due to Covid-19 and the resulting expansion of work-from-home culture, many employers saw injury claims increase in 2024. At the same time, many experienced administrators, claims handlers and attorneys retired in 2024, including a very large number of District and Staff Hearing officers. 2024 also saw the continued slowing of Covid-19 workers' compensation claims, as the Industrial Commission seemed to generally settle on a standard of "direct" exposure in order to succeed. Allegations that employers violated specific safety requirements (VSSR) were also front and center in 2024, with several new cases impacting these quasi-punitive workers compensation proceedings. Perhaps most significantly, both the Tenth Appellate District and the Ohio Supreme Court saw fit to overrule long-standing case law (farewell, State ex rel. AutoZone and State ex rel. Russell) and by doing so imposed new rules concerning when a claimant can be deemed to have reached "maximum medical improvement" (MMI) and whether the defense of "abandonment" (or something like it) could still be applied to bar temporary total disability compensation (TTD).

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Attorney Recognitions



Matthew T. Fitzsimmons was selected as an Ohio Super Lawyer in the field of Business Litigation for 2025.

Welcome New Staff —

Robert L. Chaloupka

Associate

Rob is a seasoned professional with more than two decades experience as a practicing attorney, educator and editor. His practice areas focus on civil law, including estate planning, probate, trusts, non-profit organizations and contract law as well as customs compliance and documentation.



Samantha L. Lonsinger

Associate

Samantha is the latest addition to the Nicola firm. She is a recent graduate of the Cleveland State University College of Law. She also is an honors graduate of the University of Dayton. While a student she was an intern and law clerk working on estate planning and elder care law including trusts and wills as well as healthcare powers of attorney, HIPPA authorizations and durable powers of attorney.



If you have questions concerning any of the items discussed above, please contact your attorney at Nicola, Gudbranson & Cooper, 216.621.7227.

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