

The BOYK BULLETIN

Leah Michael Climbed The Ranks From Receptionist To Become Firm's Newest Attorney



*Leah O. Michael,
Attorney at Law*

Boyk Law would like to welcome the firm's newest attorney, Leah O. Michael, who passed the Ohio Bar Exam on the first attempt in May.

Leah began working for Charles E. Boyk Law Offices, LLC in the

fall of 2012 as a receptionist, but soon took on more responsibility and quickly became Chuck's personal litigation paralegal handling some of the firm's most complex cases.

While she worked to learn the various processes of the law in a clinical setting, she also attended evening classes to obtain her law degree from the University of Toledo College of Law.

During her time at UT, Leah actively participated in the Student Bar Association, serving as the Pro Bono Committee Chairperson while helping to raise money for The Victory Center, among various other organizations.

While working by Chuck's side in a number of the firm's largest personal injury cases in both state and federal court, Leah has gained insight and an appreciation for providing clients with top-notch legal services.

"Leah has the ability, work ethic, and personality to be a top level attorney," Chuck Boyk said. "She earned this job and opportunity with a fantastic

quality effort as a legal assistant. Her clients continue to rave about her."

She also has a wealth of knowledge in creditor-debtor disputes, having worked for former United States Bankruptcy Trustee and practicing bankruptcy attorney Patricia A. Kovacs for three years before landing the job with Chuck.

Leah has also worked in some of the firm's smaller practice areas such as general civil litigation and criminal defense.

"There is a dire need for females in the legal profession," Attorney Mike Bruno said. "More importantly, there is a need for good lawyers and we have both of those goals met with Leah."

Leah grew up in Swanton, Ohio before moving to Napoleon, Ohio during high school. She currently resides in Maumee but still returns to her family home most weekends where she



The Honorable Judge Colin McQuade shakes Leah's hand after swearing her in

spends time boating with friends and family on the Maumee River. She enjoys attending concerts, sporting events, and traveling with her mom, Tracy Gillen.

Congratulations, Leah!

Getting to Know Leah

What is your favorite ice cream?

It's a tie - Haagen Daaz Peanut Butter Chocolate and Homemade brand's Cherry Cordial

Favorite book of all time?

To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Favorite Pixar movie?

A Bug's Life

What's the farthest you've been from home?

Brussels, Belgium

What is your favorite charity?

I have two - St. Jude Children's Hospital and The Chris Kyle Frog Foundation



Leah with her mom and travel pal, Tracy, at the Kentucky Derby

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ATTORNEYS

Charles Boyk, Michael Bruno,
Wesley Merillat, & Leah O. Michael

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Local Writer Highlights Toledo's Hidden Gems Through The Eyes Of A Young Attorney



Attorney Dorian Slaybod

Attorney Dorian Slaybod could be considered one of Toledo's best kept secrets for all he does to unearth Toledo's hidden gems.

As a feature columnist for *Toledo City Paper*, the former Boyk Law employee has had the opportunity to meet the amazing local people of Toledo and visit places of interest all over northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan, which he writes about in his column, "Playbook."

We sat down with Dorian, 29, to get the scoop on where he's been, what he's doing, and why he decided to come back and make Toledo his home.

Tell us about your time working for Chuck Boyk

I worked for Chuck during spring, summer, and winter breaks from school during ages 14-20. I did all kinds of things. I answered phones, prepared direct mailings, delivered documents to offices, and filed with courts. One summer I mostly just moved boxes of closed files from one room to another.

My favorite memory is when Chuck asked me to do some small legal research on a slip-and-fall case. It was, I believe, my first real legal work. It felt great to feel like I had some real impact on a case.

"It's been great to watch Dorian grow from the son of my friend Sheldon Slaybod to a colleague whose column I get to frequently read in the paper," Chuck Boyk said. "He has earned the respect and a following from the community that doesn't typically come to people so young and I am extremely proud of him."

What made you want to become an attorney?

I became an attorney so that I could advocate for people. I now work in [Lucas County] Family Court, where I advocate for no one in particular since the Court remains impartial. But I still get to go to work every day with the hope that I can make our Court and the legal system more effective and helpful for everyday people.

Where have you lived, what did you do during your time away, and what made you move back?

I went to college and law school at Ohio State, and I obtained a Masters of Law from University of Arkansas. I also studied agriculture and sociology in the Dominican Republic.

I've worked for a number of state agencies in Ohio, including the Governor's Office and the Attorney General. I also worked in California for the ACLU, and in Toledo for Legal Aid's migrant farmworker program.

I never had a plan to return to Toledo, but I am happy I'm here. I grew up here, but it feels different--more tangibly rewarding--to come back and make it my home.

How did you get started writing for *City Paper* and how do you choose the people and places featured in your articles?

The people at the *City Paper* were nice enough to give me an opportunity to write about Toledo from the viewpoint of a younger person. I actively try to find the lesser explored parts of this city, and I am thrilled to have the chance to share my experiences. There is so much more here than most people realize.

Where do you see yourself when you "grow up"?

I used to think of "growing up" as having everything figured out. I imagined my apartment always clean, and my shirts all neatly ironed. But now I consider growing up as having the wherewithal and focus to let some less important things go in order to focus on what is really important. I have shoes that should have been polished eight months ago, and posters that I planned to hang over a year ago.

I find happiness in knowing that I handled myself professionally in a high-conflict situation -- we sometimes get those here at the Court! -- or in remembering a friend's birthday. It's not that I have found some elevated consciousness where the small things don't matter (my shoes really look awful), but I am able to appreciate the larger picture, even with the small specks and wrinkles.

That's a long way of saying that I feel like I am growing up. Although, I still wish I knew how to cook something more complicated than a frozen pizza.

RECIPE:

Carly's Cowboy Caviar Bean Dip

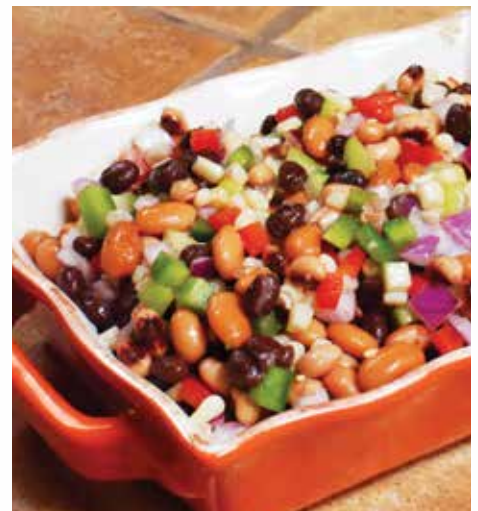
This tasty treat is versatile enough to serve with tortilla chips, over nachos, or as a salad topper with chicken.

INGREDIENTS:

¼ cup olive oil
¼ cup white sugar
¼ cup apple cider vinegar
1 each - red, yellow, green bell peppers, diced
1 medium sweet onion
One 14oz can pinto beans
One 14oz can black beans
One 14oz can whole kernel corn
One bag tortilla chips

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together olive oil, sugar, and apple cider vinegar until well-combined.
2. Add diced peppers and onions, stir gently.
3. Add beans and stir gently.
4. Chill in the fridge for at least 30 minutes.
5. Serve with tortilla chips.



Teachers Leave Lasting Impressions On Students



Sheronda Boyd with Collin Morrow

Two more teachers ended the 2014-2015 school year on a high note after winning Visa gift cards in the Start Student and Teacher of the Month contest.

Special Ed teacher Sheronda Boyd was thrilled that her class, with the help of another teacher, Ms. Piotrowski, nominated her for April Teacher of the Month. The \$250 Visa gift card prize was just a bonus to her, as was the \$50 that the class won for their nomination.

Their letter read, in part:

“Ms. Boyd is teaching us life skills to live on our own after graduation. In our classroom, we have learned how to make grilled cheese sandwiches, tomato soup, pancakes, eggs, and much more. Each one of us has our own birthday celebration with cupcakes, ice cream, and a gift card to our favorite store. She is #1 because she really cares about us.”

To read the complete nomination letter, visit www.NominateAStartTeacher.com.

May’s Teacher of the Month was in tears after learning that Brandon Adams’ video about her caused her to win her \$250 gift card.

Kathy Weber-Moldawsky, a long-time Start High substitute who went on to become a staple at the school, had kind words said about her by Brandon during his video nomination. “She understands the students’ perspective



Kathy Weber-Moldawsky and Brandon Adams

because she used to be a counselor,” Brandon said. “We have free expression [in class]. She taught us that we can’t let other people’s opinions alter our decisions. That’s the best thing she taught me.”

Students also recognized for hard work in and out of the classroom

Teachers weren’t the only ones who received gift cards in April and May.

Freshman Hunter Lytten was recognized by two teachers – Lisa Tucker and Lynette Swantack – for his preparedness in class and his willingness to help even after the bell rings.

“Hunter always takes the time at the end of class to help me with anything that I may need,” Ms. Swantack, his Spanish teacher, said. “He helps other students when they need it and Hunter is always well-prepared for class.”

Lisa Tucker, Hunter’s Algebra teacher, also had wonderful things to say about him.

“Hunter always makes sure others are taken care of,” Ms. Tucker said. “Even if he is struggling, he tells others how good they are doing. He is a hard worker and is always on task, listening, and wanting to learn more.”

May’s student of the month was equally praised by her former teacher, Patricia Willets. In her nomination of Mariah Mangum, Ms.



Hunter Lytten and Lisa Tucker

Willets wrote of the Junior:

“Mariah is an excellent student. She always does her work and always has a smile on her face. She is pleasant, kind, and she is a beautiful person – inside and out! I love her being in my class.”

Both Hunter and Mariah won \$50 Visa gift cards for winning Student of the Month.

Each month, Boyk Law chooses one teacher and one student from a pool of nominations to win various gift cards. Students must submit a video nomination and teachers recognize students using a survey. To watch the heartwarming videos on the Student and Teacher winners, visit www.NominateAStartStudent.com.



Patricia Willets and Mariah Mangum



4th Annual Race for Justice

What: A 5k race and 1 mile walk

When: Saturday, June 20th at 9am

Where: Downtown Toledo, beginning at the Center for Equal Justice, 525 Jefferson Ave.

Who benefits: Medical-Legal Partnership for Children (MLPC), a partnership among pediatric, obstetric, and mental health providers and poverty law attorneys.

Why: To help underserved children and families in Lucas County challenged with poverty, discrimination, family violence, and other civil legal issues.

Be a hero and join us for our fourth Race for Justice!

5K Race 4 Justice

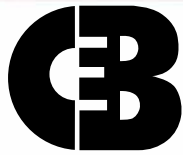
Downtown Toledo
Saturday, June 20, 2015

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| \$60 adm. | \$20 adm. | \$25 adm. |
| Check-in | 5k Run | 1 Mile Walk |

REGISTRATION FEE:
 \$20 per person (by June 15) | \$25 per person (after June 15)
 All registrants receive a t-shirt.

MORE INFORMATION AND ONLINE REGISTRATION:
www.race4justice.org

Proceeds from the Race for Justice benefit the Medical-Legal Partnership for Children, a program of Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. and Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc.



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CASES OF INTEREST: JUNE 2015

Family Turns To Boyk Law For Help Finding Answers After The Unexpected Passing Of Their 7-Year-Old Son

Parents were told that their son would be just fine after a medical visit for what was thought to be the flu. After visits to a pediatrician and local hospital, the child was admitted and preparing to be transported via life-flight to a children's hospital. Sadly, the first grader did not survive the transport. Our deepest condolences continue to be with his family as we help them get to the bottom of what went wrong.

Man Faces Surgery After Being Rear-Ended On The Highway

Our client was on US-23 when he slowed down to approach an accident. Despite putting on his emergency flashers, he was still rear-ended by an SUV whose driver admitted to falling asleep behind the wheel. Our client was transported by ambulance to a local hospital and is facing surgery to repair a fractured hand and fractured thumb. He is also dealing with a shoulder injury as a result of the accident, which may need additional treatment.

Worker Falls Into Unguarded Mechanic's Pit At Job, Causing Serious Injuries

Our client was guiding a tank when he fell into a six-foot deep concrete pit, landing on his side and fracturing his right femur. He underwent right hip surgery to repair the break and also suffered sprains to his back, right knee, and right shoulder. We are pursuing claims for safety violations of not guarding the pit.



New address or phone number?

Help us stay current by letting us know!

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