



The BOYK LAW REPORT

11 Offices >>> NW Ohio & SE Michigan

ATTORNEYS

Charles Boyk, Michael Bruno, Andrea Young, Zac Shaffer & Sam Bolotin, Fredric Boyk, Wes Merrillat, of counsel

CONTACT US TODAY!

MAIN OFFICE

1500 Timberwolf Dr.
Holland, OH 43528
(419) 241-1395 Main
(800) 637-8170 Toll-free
(419) 241-8731 Fax

BOWLING GREEN

121 E. Wooster St., Suite 100
Bowling Green, OH 43402

DOWNTOWN TOLEDO

405 Madison Ave., Suite 1200
Toledo, OH 43604

DEFIANCE

1012 Ralston Ave.
Defiance, OH 43512

FINDLAY

612 S. Main St., Suite 107
Findlay, OH 45840

FREMONT

219 S. Front St., Suite 105
Fremont, OH 43420

LIMA

114 N. West St., Suite 203
Lima, OH 45801

MAUMEE

1683 Lance Pointe Rd
Suite 104 B
Maumee, OH 43537

SWANTON

10725 Airport Hwy.
Swanton, OH 43558

WEST TOLEDO

7659 Kings Pointe Rd., Suite B
Toledo, OH 43617

WEST UNITY

123 E. Jackson St.
West Unity, OH 43570



AUTO ACCIDENTS • MEDICAL MALPRACTICE
WORKERS' COMPENSATION • DOG BITES
WRONGFUL DEATH • PRODUCT LIABILITY
ATV & MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENTS
MASS TORTS • SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS

A Law Student's Journey: From Beside the Bench to Private Practice *By Angela Hanna*



Angela Hanna

I'm only a few years into my legal career, but during this short time, I have gained a variety of valuable experiences. My legal journey began with my undergraduate Paralegal Studies Program at the University of Toledo in the fall of 2019. My goal was to become an attorney, but I come from a family with no ties to the legal community, so I prioritized networking and took advantage

of the resources offered by the program. Despite the worldwide pandemic, that occurred shortly thereafter, I was still able to make connections with my professors—some of whom were active practitioners—as well as the program director.

A year after starting the Paralegal Studies Program, I was looking for internship opportunities when the director shared a job opening for Judge Lanzinger's Law Clerk/Bailiff at the Toledo Municipal Court. In January 2021, I was offered this full-time position and adjusted my full-time class schedule to evenings, so I could gain practical experience in addition to my classroom education. This role, combined with my evening courses, provided invaluable insights that went beyond classroom learning; I routinely observed different types of court proceedings, learned how courts operate internally, and made significant connections with dozens of attorneys and other members of the bench. Additionally, this unique perspective deepened my legal understanding by allowing me to witness what's important to judges, understand the reasoning behind their decisions, and grasp what to do—and not to do—when practicing law, especially when practicing in a courtroom. These were lessons that I knew would follow me into any position I'd have in the future.

In August 2022, I started law school at the University of Toledo College of Law through their evening program while still working full-time at the Toledo Municipal Court. I quickly realized that my undergraduate program and real-world experience provided me with an advantage in many of the traditional first-year courses—civil procedure came easily, and criminal law made sense, enhancing my understanding of each parties' positions and objectives in the criminal proceedings I encountered daily. Since then, my courses and professors have introduced me to new areas of the law, refined my essay writing, and

taught me what information professors are looking for during cold calls. Although my law school courses have instilled a new way to conceptualize and approach various issues, most of my courses haven't necessarily addressed how to practice law. This is why I decided to join the team at Charles Boyk Law Offices as a paralegal/law clerk after serving almost three years at the Toledo Municipal Court.

When joining the firm last fall, my goals shifted towards learning and developing skills I'd need to practice that weren't necessarily addressed in my previous position—such as building and maintaining client relationships. Since becoming part of the team, I've established relationships and assisted clients from across the state and even different parts of the country. I've also become more familiar with the practice area and am learning the civil litigation process from this new perspective. Most importantly, I'm getting hands-on experience with the internal casework that occurs outside of the court system.

This change in position has led to endless learning opportunities. The questions posed by clients are different than those that were asked by judges and attorneys, and learning the law from this different point of view is shaping me into a well-rounded practitioner for the future. Not only am I learning the law from attorneys who have been practicing since before I was born, but I am also gaining insights into strategic client advocacy from those recognized for their excellence in the field.

Each role I've held has come with different audiences, and I believe learning these roles has made me more versatile in the way I communicate, strategize, and empathize with each audience. At the court, I realized the value in understanding the court system itself and how to effectively work with members of the bench, court staff, attorneys, and members of the public. In law school, my professors have taught me a new way to approach problems and how to critically think about relevant issues. In my current position, I'm learning the importance of collaboration and working towards common goals while gaining a deeper understanding of the client side of the story that I've been missing. Fortunately, in each role, I've been surrounded by team members and mentors who have shown genuine interest in my personal development and who value the insights I take away from each experience. I am excited to continue growing with the Boyk team as I approach my expected graduation in December 2025 and prepare to start my career as a practicing attorney in 2026.



Daunting & Rewarding: Advice for Young Lawyers Beginning Their Careers

In every profession, beginning a new career naturally brings excitement and anxiety. Whether you are a surgeon performing your first surgery or a lawyer arguing your first trial, young professionals will always have the drive to be the best. The problem is that most young attorneys enter the legal profession with a limited understanding of what they are embarking on. More specifically, most young attorneys do not know what they should be doing early to set themselves up for future success.

So, the question remains: “As a young attorney, what should I know about the legal profession to set myself up for success?” Fortunately, experienced attorneys in Northwest Ohio are usually always willing to help newer generations of attorneys. Specifically, some of Northwest Ohio’s experienced and reputable attorneys have offered their advice on the following questions to help guide attorneys to the promised land.

■ If you only had one piece of advice to offer young lawyers to help start their career off right, what would that advice be?

Be Selective: Most young attorneys starting out will take any and all cases that come through the door. While balancing bills, income, and building your practice, make sure you are taking care of yourself as well. Being selective early will allow you to control the pace and future of your practice, but you will also be more satisfied with your practice and your career choice.

Communicate Effectively and Honestly: Building trust with your clients should be a priority. Communicating frequently with your clients and

setting reasonable expectations early is a must. Trust is built not only by your success but also by reputation. If you over-promise and under-deliver, your reputation and your practice may suffer. Make sure to return every call and maintain communication as your clients are relying on you. Returning their calls quickly as possible will show your clients that they can be confident in your services.

Network: Networking, even in a growing virtual world, is still important. As a young attorney, find a mentor that you can talk to about legal matters and questions. Finding someone you trust and who is willing to help you develop and grow as an attorney can help you early in your career and will set you up for future success.

■ What has been the most significant change in the practice of law during your career? And, if applicable, what advice would you offer young attorneys to help prepare themselves for similar changes?

Virtual Practice: The biggest changes to the practice can all fall under the umbrella of “Technology”. Years ago, before COVID and Zoom, almost everything occurred in person. While we may live in a remote world, including having court appearances or trials via Zoom, social interactions still should reign supreme. Not including the actual technical changes, attorneys tend to use the lack of in-person appearances as a safety net. From not being fully prepared or failing to develop relationships with others. Be prepared to negotiate or discuss all aspects of your case at every meeting or hearing and listen and engage with others as you can learn something about your case, the law, or how a particular attorney or judge handles a specific issue.

Active Involvement: Every attorney has CLE requirements. It is mandatory. But, taking the initiative and staying

updated on recent developments in your area of law will set you apart from others. Immerse yourself in your practice. Watch trials and other hearings. Being well-versed in your practice area will make you more confident. If you notice a change in settlement or plea offers, there might be a reason for this. Take the initiative and look into it. You may not be able to bill for the extra work, but it will create necessary habits for you to best protect you and your practice.

■ What has been the most satisfying part of your career?

Helping Others: While every attorney has a different story and experience, and every one of us wants financial success, every seasoned attorney will tell you the same thing about the most satisfying aspect of their career – knowing they made a difference. The job will feel thankless at times. But, that feeling will always be the exception to the rule. Regardless of the area of law that you practice, you make a difference and that will always stay with you. Whether you practice family law – helping those in some of the hardest and most emotional moments of their lives, criminal defense – protecting those who had a lapse in judgment or the truly innocent, who were falsely charged and need help, or immigration law – assisting families to stay together and build a better life for themselves, you make a difference. Each attorney learns from their own experience. Making a difference and helping your clients pick up the pieces and put their life back together will stay with you forever.

Special thanks to Colleen Dooley, Esq., William Meyer, Esq., Jerome Phillips, Esq., and Kurt Bruderly, Esq. for their input and dedication to their clients, young attorneys, and the practice of law itself.



Two of the Craziest Bar Reprimand Stories of All Time

No matter who you are, you should always be cognizant of your actions. Whether you like it or not, attorneys are held to higher standards. Not just by the public, but also by ethical and professional rules. Despite this, attorneys are still human and make mistakes. Some mistakes, however, are so absurd that all you can do is laugh in disbelief. Here are two of the craziest examples, where attorneys threw common sense out the window, sometimes literally:

Crappy Pranks: A criminal defense attorney loved pulling pranks. Unfortunately for him, one of his “pranks” was witnessed and caught on video. This attorney was admitted to his Ohio bar in 1976 and never had any disciplinary actions against him until 2021. Before leaving his house on the day in question, this attorney relieved himself into an empty chip canister, drove for approximately 20 minutes, and then tossed the chip can loaded with excrement into the parking lot of a victim-advocacy center which was involved in one of his cases. During the disciplinary counsel proceedings, this attorney had admitted to pulling this prank at least 10 other times. According to the court opinion, his reasoning for the pranks was to blow off steam, and he enjoyed thinking about the surprise on the faces of those who found the cans. Talk about causing a stink!

Candor, I Barely Know Her (Also, Forum Decorum): This next attorney is a lesson to all practitioners to be mindful of what you say. We all want to zealously represent our clients and fight for the best outcome, but zealous and scandalous are vastly different. This attorney, admitted to the California bar in 2008, embodied zero grace or respect in his negotiation tactics, which led to his reprimand. In 2019, this personal injury attorney went to war for his clients and treated opposing counsel like the enemy. While trying to negotiate a settlement, he determined that the best method for getting a sizeable settlement was to insult and berate opposing counsel. In his emails, he seemingly used every expletive in the book and dropped extremely inappropriate insults in nearly every other sentence. For obvious reasons, these insults aren’t included, but in his attempt to win hundreds of millions for a few hundred-thousand-dollar claim, this attorney also decided to make idle threats, such as “I know where you live.” Just a friendly reminder that “think before you speak” also applies to emails!

While there are many other examples of times when lawyers were reprimanded for their behavior, these two cases are perfect examples of what not to do. While enjoyable, they serve as a reminder, that whether you believe you are zealously representing your client or just trying to reduce stress, always be mindful of what you do.

Co-Counsel Opportunities

Whether you have an injury case that is outside your core practice area, a case you do not have time or the resources to pursue on your own, or a case outside your geographic area, our firm would love to talk with you about a referral or being associated as co-counsel.

We are proud to work with co-counsel throughout the country. And when those cases resolve, we are honored to pay significant referral and co-counsel fees.

For more information about Co-Counsel Opportunities, contact Charles E Boyk Law Offices, by phone at 419-241-1395, email at refereceb@charlesboyk-law.com or visit our website, www.charlesboyk-law.com/referral

Charles Boyk Law Is A Dog Bite Case's Best Friend

We love dogs and normally have three to five dogs in the office each day. But a large number of our cases involve dog bites and dog attacks. Under Ohio law, the owner of a dog is strictly liable for bites or if the dog chases someone and causes injuries. The only exceptions are if somebody is teasing or tormenting the dog, or if someone is trespassing on their property.



In Ohio you can collect for injuries, medical bills, lost wages, and if there's any permanent injuries such as scarring and psychological damage. Normally homeowners' or renter's insurance will cover dog bites, but if it happens at a business establishment, we look to commercial liability policies. Charles Boyk Law Offices does a background check on the dog and the owner to see if there are any prior biting incidents. We gather witness statements and get video and photos of any bites or scarring. We collect the doctor's report, medical bills, and records. If there's a psychological injury, we refer the client to a psychologist and get their report.

It normally takes a year after the event, for the plastic surgeon to evaluate whether there is a permanent injury. We get a report from a board-certified plastic surgeon, to indicate what, if any, future costs will be for plastic surgery. Dog bite cases are serious, and we've been handling them for 40 years. If you have a dog bite case, we would be happy to get involved, and zealously represent you, to help you maximize the recovery.

Ohio's statute of limitations for most cases is two years. Ohio dog bite cases have a six-year statute of limitations. If the dog bite victim was a minor, you actually have six years after their 18th birthday to pursue a claim. Our firm has represented clients in other matters who mentioned they were the victims of dog bites when they were minors. In such cases, we retrieved copies of the old dog bite reports and pursued claims from years earlier. Dog bites can often cause serious injuries, and we can potentially get a very fair and lucrative settlement for the injured party.

Our Law Firm has handled hundreds of dog bite cases, and we have learned over time how to maximize the recovery and find insurance coverage when many other firms can't. We can locate the dog owner, and witnesses, to help prove the case and get results for the client. If you have a dog bite case to refer, please contact our office.

ABOUT THE CO-COUNSEL NEWSLETTER

Charles Boyk Law was founded more than 20 years ago with the intent of helping people in need. Behind a team of outstanding lawyers, professional support staff, and state-of-the-art technology, our firm has grown to become one of the leading personal injury law firms in NW Ohio and SE Michigan.

We consider it an honor to be contacted by attorneys, both locally and across the U.S., who are seeking co-counsel to help litigate complex personal injury cases. It is an even greater honor when those attorneys refer us a case involving their loved ones or friends.

Our co-counsel newsletter is tailored to attorneys. It highlights examples of cases we are handling and provides updates on litigation. If you have a personal injury case you are looking to refer, we invite you to consider our firm. Our team of attorneys and professional staff have the experience, knowledge and resources to provide your clients with the best representation and maximize the recovery.



CHARLES E. BOYK

LAW OFFICES, LLC



CHARLES E. BOYK LAW OFFICES, LLC

1500 Timberwolf Dr.
Holland, OH 43528

PH: 419.241.1395

TF: 800.637.8170

FX: 419.241.8731

www.charlesboyk-law.com



CharlesEBoykLawOffices



Charles E. Boyk



charlesboyklaw



www.youtube.com/ceboyk

In This Issue

- A Law Student's Journey: From Beside the Bench to Private Practice
By Angela Hanna
- Daunting & Rewarding: Advice for Young Lawyers Beginning Their Careers
- Two of the Craziest Bar Reprimand Stories of All Time
- Charles Boyk Law Is A Dog Bite Case's Best Friend
- Best Coffee in Downtown Toledo - Rustbelt Coffee:
Not Your Average Cup of Joe - by Zac Shaffer

A Newsletter by Attorneys, For Attorneys

The **BOYK** LAW REPORT

VOLUME 1 • ISSUE 12
SEPTEMBER, 2024

Best Coffee in Downtown Toledo - Rustbelt Coffee: Not Your Average Cup of Joe - by Zac Shaffer

Whether meeting clients, waiting for a court appearance or when that extra jolt of caffeine is needed, attorneys love coffee and coffee shops when they go to court. If you find yourself in Downtown Toledo, Rustbelt Coffee is my go-to place.

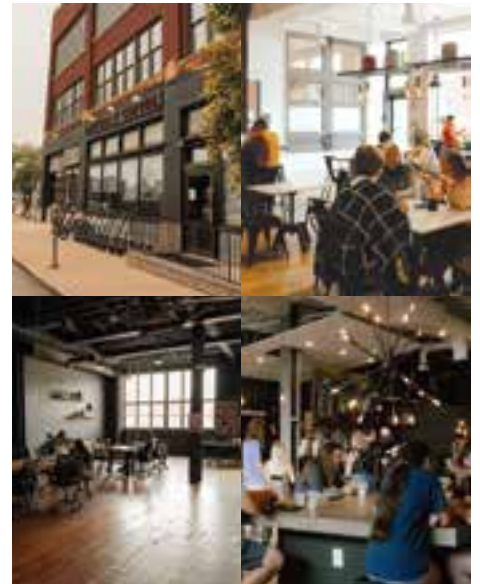
Located near the Lucas County Courthouse at 119 N. Ontario Street, Rustbelt Coffee has a comforting atmosphere and delicious options. Rustbelt opened its doors in 2016 and has continued to provide outstanding service, coffee, and food. My usual drink is their Single Origin Coffee, which is unrivaled.

The atmosphere is what makes this place unique. Presumably named for the Rustbelt Region, the building holds to the style and décor of Toledo: Rustic, but Modern. The high ceilings and large windows offer

plenty of natural light that creates an open atmosphere. There are plenty of seating and table options to work, eat, or drink in the coffee and ambiance.

The customers embody the residents and culture of Toledo. Friendly and busy people come and go, while those who need a minute enjoy the peaceful and welcoming atmosphere. Unlike some places, Rustbelt Coffee entices you with the smell of fresh coffee and a lively vibe, while also encouraging you to sit down, enjoy your coffee, and prepare for whatever the day entails.

The next time you find yourself in Downtown Toledo, Rustbelt is a "must go" place for coffee, socializing, or work.



New address or phone number? Help us stay current by letting us know! Call 419.241.1395 or e-mail marketing@charlesboyk-law.com