

The **BOYK** LAW REPORT

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Jerome Phillips: The Standard by Zac Shaffer

When you think of Toledo's best attorneys, Jerome "Jerry" Phillips almost always tops this list. I first learned Jerry's name when I told my dad, a former Toledo Police Officer, that I was going to law school. Now that I am a practicing attorney in Toledo, I've had the experience and pleasure of knowing Jerry and discovering why he is a pillar of Toledo's Legal Community.

Jerry graduated from the University of Toledo in 1966, when it was known as Toledo University. He initially had no intention of going to law school. It wasn't until his junior year that the thought even crossed his mind.

Jerry took a business course where he and the professor would openly discuss and debate topics of interest. One day after class, his professor pulled him aside and asked if he had thought about going to law school. He had planned on studying business or becoming a CPA. Instead, he enrolled at The Ohio State University College of Law. He received his J.D. in 1969.

He began his practice at Phillips & Wittenberg, alongside another legend of the legal community, Sheldon Wittenberg. When he first began practicing, he was like any other young attorney grinding away and working on building his reputation and his clientele.

His father, Willie, was the owner of the infamous Surf Club restaurant, and Jerry used those relationships to build his practice. His partner, Shelly's father, was a Lucas County Commissioner, which also helped them grow their practice. They continued practicing together until 1978.

During this time, Jerry began working part-time as a prosecutor for the City of Toledo. Jerry was still able to take on criminal defense cases, just not in Toledo. He became fully immersed in criminal law, learning and developing his skills, which also allowed him to network and forge relationships with judges, attorneys, and police officers.

After 8 years at the prosecutor's office, serving the last four years as the City of Toledo's Chief Prosecutor, Jerry faced the choice of working full-time as a prosecutor or focusing on private practice. Ultimately, Jerry decided to step down as a prosecutor and began practicing at Lackey, Nusbaum, Phillips & Harris.

Soon after, multiple Toledo Police officers faced criminal charges and turned to Jerry for help. The case came with significant publicity. Fortunately for the officers, Jerry successfully defended them and proved their innocence. His well-established legal reputation grew even greater following these cases.

In 1984, he rejoined his friend and former partner, Shelly Wittenberg, along with Jeff Levy, and formed Wittenberg, Phillips & Levy. Jeff Levy has since retired, but Jerry and Shelly still work together.

was a young attorney," says Charles Boyk. "He is one of the greatest criminal law attorneys and the standard for professionalism."

Jerry was President of the Toledo Junior Bar Association in 1979. He served as Vice-President of the Toledo Bar Association from 1993-1996, President from 1996-1997, and on their Board of Trustees from 1981-1998.

Jerry was a member of the Executive Committee for the Inns of Court from 1996-2001 and served as Inns of Court President from 1999-2000.

In addition to his involvement in the local bar associations and organizations, he had the honor and pleasure of guest lecturing. As a remark to his professionalism, Jerry was asked to be a guest lecturer on ethics at the Ohio Legal Center Institute, the University of Toledo College of Law, and other locations.

One of his most rewarding experiences was his time working with the Supreme Court of Ohio Board of Commissioners. In 1998, Jerry was nominated to serve on the Clients' Security Fund, which helps to compensate individuals who were wronged by their attorney. He served as the Chairman of this committee, and is the only individual nominated for this position twice. True to his character, Jerry's professionalism always shines through.

Jerry is also known for his culinary prowess and his passion for art. An avid cook and baker, Jerry loves sharing joy with his baked goods. He is renowned for his lemon squares, and for the past 30-40 years, he has taken his desserts to the courthouse to share with the court staff, bailiffs, and attorneys.

Jerry and his lovely wife, Diane, also share a passion for art: specifically modern art and glass sculptures, and they continue to grow their collection together. They promote local artists by purchasing their art and donating to the art commission.

He and Diane have known each other since high school and were married when he was finishing his 3rd year of law school. They have two children, Kimberly and Brian. Jerry was never the parent to push his kids toward law, but Kimberly followed in her father's footsteps and is an attorney. Brian, while not an attorney, went to law school as well.

Passion, devotion, and heart sum up everything that Jerry does. Simply put, Jerry is "The Standard" for professionalism, work ethic, and character. He is an inspiration to me and everyone around him.



Jerome "Jerry" Phillips

"I've known and watched Jerry practice since I



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

Working Weekends by Zac Shaffer

Whenever the issue of working on weekends arises, everyone always thinks that my viewpoint is different because I'm of a younger generation. However, much like Chuck, I love working on weekends. To clarify, I love the idea of having free time. Not that I have a social life, as my social circle of late is mostly a dog who has more sass than a toddler, but being able to work with no distractions is a godsend.

While I don't always like coming into the office, the weekends are some of the best days to get work done. Like Chuck, I have tried blocking time off on my calendar but... Murphy's Law is a constant force of nature. Whether a call takes twice as long as expected or if I'm trying to handle five different assignments at once, there is never enough time in the day.

There is just something different about the amount and quality of work that can get done on a weekend compared to during the week. Whether they are simple tasks like prepping for a hearing or doing research, working in an office during business hours can be difficult. Saturday and Sunday feel like being in the eye of a hurricane. Whether it is the calm before the storm or the calm following the prior week, it is a different feeling.

Speaking with other attorneys who have experienced their own reasons and practices, it is interesting to see different vantage points. While I am similar to Attorney Boyk in enjoying the weekend work for myself, I was given a different perspective when I asked Attorney Jerome Phillips why he works weekends. He still does so for himself, but he also does it for his clients. Jerry Phillips practices criminal law in Toledo, and when he first started practicing, he began working weekends as another way of helping his clients. "There is a financial side to working weekends," says Phillips. "I am asking them to spend their money to retain my services, but they also have to take time off work to meet me during the week. A lot of people are working 9-to-5s, and I can show my appreciation and better help them by meeting them on weekends."

Working Weekends by Chuck Boyk

My favorite day of the week is Saturday. My favorite activity is going to my law office and do work by myself. Sometimes other people are there, but they know to leave me alone. During the week, I am busy with meetings, client intakes, depositions, mediations, and running the business. Saturday is my day to gain control of my business life and prepare for the following week. Here is my strategy:

- *Clean and tidy up my office and workspace.*
- *Make all the client calls that my legal assistants know to leave me to do. If clients are busy during the week and we are unable to connect, then Saturday is the day. I think clients appreciate it when they know you are working on their case on a Saturday.*
- *Prepare for next week's depositions, mediations, and client meetings.*
- *Have any client meetings we were unable to schedule during the week.*
- *Call any high-level client intakes that came in on Friday night and Saturday.*
- *Review and approve any complaints, discovery, and legal research done by our law clerks or legal assistants.*
- *Review my calendar for the next several weeks, make sure we are prepared, and schedule some time blocks to just do work.*
- *Make a list of subjects to discuss and to-dos for each law clerk and legal assistant on my team.*
- *Review any seminar material or medical research relevant to our cases.*
- *Write 2 posts for later posting on my business LinkedIn account.*
- *Brainstorm marketing ideas and long-term vision for the business.*

Saturday is "my comfort zone," and my office desk is where I achieve my best results. It is my "security blanket" where I become confident that I am prepared for the following week.

Memories of Morrie by Chuck Boyk

The first 10 years of my law practice (1983-1993) were probably my most "pure fun." My law practice was mainly criminal defense. I was hustling to learn, get clients, and mingle with my peers and clients. I did not make much money, but the amount of "characters" was out of a crazy novel.

Morrie was an old, small criminal defense attorney who wore suits that were twice as large as he needed. He would hang out in the halls of the misdemeanor court, talking to unrepresented individuals. He would try and talk them into paying him \$200-\$300 to plead them. That was his client acquisition strategy.

Morrie was also a magician. He would do tricks and pull a quarter out of your ear. His claim to fame was making balloon animals. Attorneys and defendants would crowd around him and walk away with neat balloon dogs, elephants, giraffes, birds, and cats.

You certainly did not want to be represented by Morrie. However, it felt like a circus atmosphere of fun when he was around.

The entire criminal defense bar often lingered in misdemeanor court. You saw attorneys ranging from Morrie to the top criminal defense attorneys in the state. Teasing, gossiping, teaching, and strategy sessions in the



hallway were appreciated by everybody. Lifelong friendships were formed, and funny stories were the norm.

The good old days.

▶▶▶ UPCOMING CLE Opportunities

LAW OFFICE MANAGEMENT, CLIENT FUND MANAGEMENT & PROFESSIONALISM

NEW LAWYER TRAINING: 3.0 New Lawyer Training Credit Hours

Live Zoom Webinar: Thu, December 18, 2025, 1:00 PM - 4:15 PM ET

TBA Welcome – Introduction to TBA Services: 12:45 pm – 1:00 pm

Professionalism Panel: 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Topics Include:

Conduct in the courtroom

Working with Opposing counsel

Discovery/depositions

Zoom/videoconferencing

Client Fund Management: 2:15 pm – 3:15 pm

Topics Include:

Historical Foundation

Disciplinary Process

Law Office, Business and IOLTA accounts

Ohio Rules of Professional Conduct

Law Office Management Panel: 3:15 pm – 4:15 pm

Topics Include:

Client Files

Staff

Equipment

Administration Issues

Marketing

Sponsored by the Toledo Bar Association Young Lawyers Committee

For more information, contact Lisa Small, lsmall@toledobar.org or call 419-418-5310

FROM FRAME TO FACT: NAVIGATING THE LEGAL REALITIES OF FORENSIC VIDEO

Live Interactive Webinar - 3.0 General Credit Hours

December 16, 2025, 12:00 – 3:15 pm

Today, visual and audio evidence is everywhere and can be found at more locations and from more diverse sources than ever before. Forensic Video Analysis is defined as the scientific examination, comparison, and/or the evaluation of video in legal matters. Most people believe that video is the 'silent witness' and that 'what you see is what you get.' However, a proper forensic video analysis will show that this is not always the case. In fact, often the videos examined and analyzed are not the original videos with the original meta-data, but copies of the original file from the DVR/NVR system.

- Discuss Axon Digital Media Trends Report and what officers/attorneys are seeing
- Highlight the important issues throughout the report and show case examples.
- Basic Terminology and definitions every investigator and attorney should know
- Before you work with digital media, one should understand the common terms and definitions.
- Discuss I-frames, P-frames, and B-frames.
- Discuss Digital Video Limitations
- The Process of Preserving the evidence, Extracting the evidence, and analyzing the evidence.
- Highlight the importance of getting the original video prior to any analysis.

Presented by:

Matthew Healy, Forensic Video Analyst, Reconstructionist, Introtech

Mr. Healy previously worked for 8 years as a professional video specialist, prior to joining Introtech in the Spring of 2019. He has a bachelor's degree in electronic media production from Kent State University. In addition to his extensive experience, Mr. Healy has also received specialized training in both areas of Accident Reconstruction and Forensic Video Analysis. He has graduated from the Northwestern University's Basic and Advanced Accident Investigation schools and also graduated from IPTM's Accident Reconstruction school.

For more information, contact Lisa Small, lsmall@toledobar.org or call 419-418-5310

Jamming for Justice - Jingle Balls

The biggest live-music event in the Toledo legal community is BACK! Don't miss Jamming for Justice - featuring local attorneys and judges showing off their musical talent on Friday, December 19, from 7-11 PM at the Distillery, 4311 Heatherdowns Blvd. at Eastgate Rd., in Toledo. This event is sponsored by the Toledo Bar Association. \$10 Cover Requested, but additional contributions are gladly accepted.

Live music by The Jingle Balls Band, The Kirbys, Gary Byers, and more guest artists!

All proceeds benefit the TBA Foundation Neil Light Scholarship Fund and the TBA Pro Bono Program. Donations are tax deductible. For sponsorships, contact Scott Schwab.



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 referceb@charlesboyk-law.com or visit our website, www.charlesboyk-law.com/referral

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.



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A Newsletter by Attorneys, For Attorneys

The **BOYK** LAW REPORT

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Making the Case for Dogs in Office by Chuck Boyk

Our law firm always has 2-6 dogs in the office at any given time, and I absolutely love it. Here is the back story.

As a kid growing up, my family never had a dog. My parents claimed it was because my brother was allergic (I suggested they get rid of my brother, but that didn't go over well). I then had a brilliant idea to pretend I had an invisible dog and constantly talk and play with it.



I thought my parents were going to give in until they started talking and playing with my imaginary dog. That's when I gave up.

I finally got a real dog when I

moved into my first house. Shortly thereafter, the dog ate my couch and destroyed most of my furniture. About 10 years ago, one of my attorneys, Leah, suggested we allow employees to bring their dogs into the office. She promised it would improve morale and reduce stress. About 40 dogs later, it proved to be a great idea.

The employees love it. The clients are pleasantly surprised. Our "Pawyers" have their own business cards and profiles on our website. Dog toys and treats are scattered throughout the office.

We secure the dogs or ask them to "work" from home whenever a dog-bite client visits the office.

People tend to want things they do not have. My parents' denial has resulted in dogs being a large part of my life.



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