

The **BOYK** BULLETIN



CHARLES E. BOYK
LAW OFFICES, LLC

11 Offices >>> NW Ohio & SE Michigan

Return of the Boyk Super Lawyers



Chuck Boyk, Andrea Young, and Mike Bruno

Charles Boyk Law Attorneys Mike Bruno and Chuck Boyk were named Super Lawyers for 2026, and Andrea Young has again been recognized as a “Rising Star” for the fifth year in a row.

Super Lawyers recognizes outstanding attorneys from more than 70 practice areas who have attained the highest degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. Nominees are selected by

their peers and go through a rigorous evaluation process.

Super Lawyer candidates are identified by their peers in small, medium, and large law firms across the country. They cannot nominate themselves and are prohibited from

campaigning. Only 5% of attorneys are honored with the title of “Super Lawyer”.

“We are proud to be recognized again in 2026”, says Chuck Boyk, who was honored by Super Lawyers for the fifth straight year. “It is humbling to be honored by our peers for the work we do on behalf of our clients.” “I am very grateful to receive this recognition from my fellow lawyers,” says Boyk Law Attorney Mike Bruno. He has

been recognized Super Lawyer for the last eleven years in a row.

Super Lawyers awards outstanding young attorneys in practice for 10 years or less as “Rising Stars”. “Andrea Young is a brilliant attorney,” says Chuck Boyk. “She possesses extraordinary legal skills, knowledge, and experience.

“I am grateful for the opportunity to help my clients, and I am honored to be selected by Super Lawyers again this year,” says Andrea Young.

Congratulations to attorneys Chuck Boyk and Mike Bruno on being named 2026 Super Lawyers, and to five-time winner of the Rising Star award, Andrea Young. Charles Boyk Law Offices are very proud to have such talented attorneys on our staff.



CONTACT US TODAY!

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ATTORNEYS

Charles Boyk, Michael Bruno, Andrea Young, Zackary Shaffer, Emily Warnimont & Wes Merillat, Fredric Boyk, of counsel

MAIN OFFICE

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

Our Newest Location!

MAUMEE

1683 Lance Pointe Rd
Suite 104 B
Maumee, OH 43537

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, Suite C-1
Defiance, OH 43512

FREMONT

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

FINDLAY

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

LIMA

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

SWANTON

10725 Airport Hwy.
Swanton, OH 43558

WEST UNITY

123 E. Jackson St.
West Unity, OH 43570

WEST TOLEDO

7659 Kings Pointe Rd.
Suite B
Toledo, OH 43617

AUTO ACCIDENTS • MEDICAL MALPRACTICE
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Understanding Nursing Home Residents' Rights by Angela Hanna

Unfortunately, many residents of nursing homes or long-term care facilities experience some form of abuse or neglect while under the care of the professionals in whom they place their trust. According to the National Center on Elder Abuse, more than 2 million cases of nursing home abuse are reported each year in the U.S.

If you think a family member in a nursing home may be a victim of abuse, it's important to act quickly. Our nursing home abuse attorneys at Charles Boyk Law have helped countless nursing home abuse victims and their families secure justice all across Ohio.

Nursing home abuse can take many forms. It can involve physical injury, mental harm, neglect, or financial exploitation. Abuse can happen to anyone and can occur in a variety of settings, including the community and in long-term care facilities. A combination of physical, psychological, functional, social, and economic factors may be associated with the occurrence of elder maltreatment. Unfortunately, many cases of abuse go unnoticed until it's too late.

National statistics show that about 1 in 10 nursing home residents is affected by some form of abuse or neglect. Additionally, U.S. Census data suggests that more than 200,000 Ohioans age 60 and older experience some form of elder abuse.

In Ohio, the Ohio Nursing Home Bill of Rights is a statute designed to protect nursing home residents. The rights established in this statute include:

- *The right to live in a safe and clean environment.*
- *The right to be free from physical, mental, and emotional abuse, and to be treated with respect and dignity.*
- *The right to receive appropriate medical care, regardless of race, religion, or how the care is paid for.*
- *The right to have all reasonable requests and inquiries responded to promptly.*

- *The right to have clean bed sheets and clothing.*
- *The right to participate in decisions about their own care and receive full information about their medical conditions.*
- *The right to be free from unnecessary restraints.*
- *The right to voice concerns or grievances without fear of retaliation.*

It's important to remember that even though someone is in a nursing home, they still have civil rights and should be treated with the same dignity as any other person.

Nursing homes have a duty to protect residents from abuse and are required to provide a safe environment. To ensure the safety of their residents, nursing homes must actively protect residents, anticipate and prevent abuse/neglect. They are also supposed to supervise, monitor, and separate residents if necessary.

Common failures that have led to nursing homes being legally liable include:

Understaffing: Not enough employees to effectively assess, supervise, and monitor residents, leading to neglect and vulnerability to abuse.

Inadequate Training: Lack of training on preventing and responding to abuse/neglect, including recognizing warning signs and knowing how or when to intervene.

Failure to Monitor Behaviors: Staff fail to monitor other residents' behaviors, including verbal or physical aggression, prior sexually suggestive acts, and wandering into other residents' rooms, creating opportunities for abuse.

Failing to Conduct Proper Background Checks: Nursing homes/in-patient facilities fail to conduct thorough background checks on both residents and staff, potentially placing vulnerable individuals at risk.

Charles Boyk Law Offices can help you with cases involving:

- *Negligent care, including negligent supervision, delayed care, or medication errors*
- *Physical abuse*
- *Sexual abuse*
- *Mental or emotional abuse*
- *Financial abuse*
- *Negligent hiring or understaffing*

If any of these types of abuse are suspected, it's important to consult with a lawyer right away. It can be hard to notice signs of abuse, especially since nursing home residents are often not able to speak up for themselves. However, some warning signs may suggest abuse or neglect:

- *Bruises, cuts, or burns that can't be explained*
- *Bedsore (also called pressure ulcers)*
- *Poor hygiene or unkempt appearance*
- *Unattended medical needs (such as missing medications or untreated wounds)*
- *Depression or social isolation*
- *Dehydration or unusual weight loss*
- *Unusual changes in behavior or sleep*
- *A sudden change in the resident's physical or mental health*

If you think your loved one is being abused, here are the steps you should take:

File a report: You can file a complaint with the **Ohio Department of Health** or **Ohio Department of Aging** through its **Ohio Adult Protective Services Hotline at 1-855-OHIO-APS**.

Get medical treatment: A doctor can examine your loved one for signs of abuse or neglect and provide important evidence that could help in a legal case.

Contact Charles Boyk Law Offices. Our lawyers can help you understand your options and protect your loved one's rights. We will also gather evidence, talk to witnesses, and fight to get compensation for the harm your loved one has suffered. We can provide you and your family with a free consultation to ensure you understand your legal rights and options for a potential recovery.



Lawsuit Filed after Violent Assault by Circle K Employee Leads to a Miscarriage

Charles Boyk Law Offices has filed a civil lawsuit in the Northern District of Ohio on behalf of Rev. Deria Francis, an eight-weeks-pregnant Black minister who miscarried after a violent assault at a Circle K gas station in Bowling Green, Ohio. The lawsuit, filed against Circle K and employee Shannon Walsh, alleges assault, battery, negligence, and related claims stemming from the May 23, 2025, incident.

Rev. Francis and her husband, Rev. Dathan Stukes were traveling from South Carolina to Detroit for a church conference when they stopped at the Circle K at 1602 East Wooster Street. After Rev. Francis asked cashier Shannon Walsh to cancel her transaction so she could enter her Circle K rewards number, a routine customer request, Walsh allegedly became hostile. According to the complaint, Walsh refused to cancel the transaction, yelled at Rev. Francis to “get the f*** out,” threw a jar of change at her stomach, and physically assaulted her in front of her two minor children.

The lawsuit, filed by Rev. Francis and Rev. Stukes, alleges that:

- Walsh, a Circle K employee acting within the scope of her employment, threw a jar of change that struck Rev. Francis’s stomach while she was eight weeks pregnant.
- When Rev. Francis attempted to leave, Walsh came out from behind the counter, grabbed her by the hair, slammed her into a drink cooler, and repeatedly struck her with a closed fist.
- During the attack, Walsh shouted racist insults, including calling Rev. Francis “an animal” and “ghetto.”
- Rev. Francis’s minor children witnessed the assault.
- Circle K failed to maintain safe premises and failed to properly hire, train, or supervise staff, allowing an environment where violence and discrimination against customers could occur.
- Rev. Francis sustained extensive bruising and suffered a miscarriage the following day.
- Police and EMS responded to the scene. Walsh was later charged with assault and ultimately pled no contest to negligent assault, resulting in a court order to complete anger-management training.

“This never should have happened. Rev. Francis was a pregnant mother simply trying to redeem a routine store loyalty reward, something Circle K actively encourages its customers to do,” said lead attorney Charles E. Boyk. “Instead, she was violently attacked, subjected to racist slurs, and suffered the unimaginable loss of her unborn child. No family should ever experience such brutality, especially in a business that claims to serve the public.”

The complaint seeks compensatory damages against the corporate and individual defendants, citing negligent disregard for the safety of Rev. Francis and her family.



Boyk Pawyer Becomes January Calendar Girl

Shelly, the Boxer-Pittie mix and beloved pup of Boyk Law’s Jessica Ferencz, is featured as Ms January in the Toledo Humane Society’s 2026 Calendar.

This is the second year that the Toledo Humane Society has published a calendar to raise funds for the non-profit shelter. THS says “proceeds from the sale of the calendars with help with their mission of relieving the suffering of, preventing cruelty to and providing for the humane treatment of animals.”

The calendar project was the brainchild of pet photographer Michelle Crandall. Her business, Pets in Focus, specializes in pet photography. Michelle says “I have always been a dog person, and I understand dogs better than most people.” She began her business taking photos of dogs at agility competitions in 2019, and now takes pet portraits for clients in Northwest Ohio and Southeastern Michigan. You can find out more about her pet photography at www.petsinfocusphoto.com

This is the second year of the Toledo Humane Society calendar project. They raised over \$8,000 in their initial run. The calendar models were selected in a contest through the Toledo Humane Society’s website. The public was invited to submit their pet photos and vote for their favorites online.

Shelly was one of the top 13 vote getters who were professionally photographed by Pets in Focus for a place in the 2026 calendar. The Toledo Humane Society is a private, nonprofit organization committed to providing the best care possible. The Toledo Humane Society is located at 827 Illinois Avenue in Maumee. For more information or to purchase a THS 2026 calendar, contact the Toledo Humane Society, toledohumane.org



CASES OF INTEREST: JANUARY 2026

At-Fault Driver Killed after Failing to Stop at a Stop Sign

Our client was traveling in Delaware, Ohio, with her younger brother when another driver failed to yield at a stop sign and smashed into the driver’s side of our client’s car. The impact pushed our client’s car off the road into a stop sign. The at-fault driver died in the collision. The impact caused our client to have severe injuries, including but not limited to a crushed pelvis and bladder. Our client’s brother had a broken femur. The injuries to our client were so extensive that she had to be life-flighted to the hospital for treatment.

Our firm is working tirelessly to ensure that our client has the support necessary in this difficult time. Our goal is to get our client the necessary support and assistance to aid in her recovery process and alleviate the financial strain caused by the accident. We are fully committed to ensuring our client receives the compensation that she rightfully deserves.

Rollover Accident Leads to Serious Injuries and Life Flight

Our client was traveling in Portage, Ohio, when another vehicle ran a stop sign, slamming into the driver’s side of her car and causing her vehicle to roll over into a field, where it came to rest upside down. Our client was life-flighted to Toledo Hospital for treatment of her injuries. Our client suffered serious injuries from the accident, including a fractured pelvis, bleeding in her brain and uterus, spinal cord damage in her neck, and a scar across her eye.

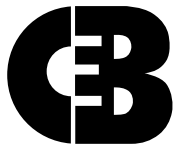
Our firm is fighting hard on our client’s behalf to ensure that she receives the support and compensation she needs for the damage inflicted by the other driver’s negligence. We are fully committed to defending our client’s rights and achieving the justice she deserves.

Failure to Yield Leads to Wrongful Death

Our client was traveling in Washington Township when another driver failed to yield at a stop sign and slammed into the passenger side of her car. The impact caused our client’s vehicle to roll over off-road. Unfortunately, our client was killed in the collision.

Our firm is working on behalf of our client’s family as they deal with these difficult times. Our goal is to ensure they receive the compassion and support necessary to help them through the loss of a loved one. We are fully committed to ensuring that they receive the justice and compensation that they deserve.





CHARLES E. BOYK
LAW OFFICES, LLC



www.charlesboyk-law.com



CharlesEBoykLawOffices



Charles E. Boyk



charlesboyklaw



www.youtube.com/ceboyk

Charles E. Boyk
Law Offices, LLC
1500 Timberwolf Dr.
Holland, OH 43528
Phone: (419) 241-1395
Toll-Free: (800) 637-8170
Fax: (419) 241-8731

January's Raving Fan of the Month

"I have never been through anything like this before and this law office was so incredible and understanding with my many questions. They kept me updated regularly. I highly recommend them if you need help with an auto accident. Thank you so much." - Michael L.

Have a positive review to share?

Go to boykreviews.com to tell us about your experience!

SPOTLIGHT ON IMAGINATION STATION



Imagination Station is Toledo's nonprofit science center. As a hub for STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) learning, their mission is to empower everyone to explore the sciences. Charles Boyk Law Offices is highlighting the science center as our January business of the month.

Founded in 2009, Imagination Station blended the best of the former COSI (Center for Science and Industry) Toledo exhibits with over \$1 million in renovations, new exhibits, and enhancements, structured around learning worlds. Visitors of every age can engage in a multi-sensory experience that's fun and educational. Since opening, over 2.6 million visitors have experienced Imagination Station. It has

become a beloved resource for families, educators, and lifelong learners.

Imagination Station brings science to life through interactive exhibits, live demonstrations, educational programs, and outreach experiences that make learning both meaningful and memorable. They've also built partnerships with community organizations and school districts to bring tens of thousands of students from across the Toledo region to Imagination Station each year for field trips and hands-on learning.

In 2021, the KeyBank Discovery Theater opened, offering visitors a state-of-the-art 3D film experience. The theater features science and nature films, as well as special showings of classic films. The theater is available to rent for private events and parties.

Imagination Station has hosted traveling exhibits on Space, Dinosaurs, the Titanic, Lego, and more. In early 2026, they will feature Tutankhamun, "Wonderful Things" Treasures from the Pharaoh's Tomb. Later this spring, they welcome Unofficial Galaxies, celebrating the imagination of Star Wars and the impact of science fiction on our world.



However, Imagination Station is more than just a science center; it delivers curriculum support to teachers and presents school demonstrations to students across three states.

Imagination receives some levy support from Lucas County residents, but it also relies on admissions, and individual and family memberships.

They also have an Adopt-A-School program to help cover the cost of school field trips, which fuels opportunity, access, education, and innovation. For more information, visit www.imaginationstationtoledo.org

Charles Boyk Law is proud to spotlight Imagination Station this month. Watch and follow Boyk Law's social media channels as we give away family passes and tickets to special events at Imagination Station throughout January.

New address or phone number? Help us stay current by letting us know!

Call (419) 241-1395 or e-mail marketing@charlesboyk-law.com