



Columbus City Attorney **Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr.**

eNewsletter

Volume 4, Issue 2

May 2014



In This Issue:

[Environmental
Victory](#)

[Victims' Rights](#)

[News and Notes](#)

[Meet the Staff](#)

[Citizen Action](#)

A Word from City Attorney Pfeiffer

Since our last e-newsletter our office has continued its steady pace of protecting the public's interest, winning cases in the courtroom and reaching out to the community. In this latest edition you will be able to read about our staff members not only making a difference here in Columbus but also getting recognition statewide.

I want to take a moment to offer my gratitude to all those who helped take a small kernel of an idea and develop it into legislation that not only received input from groups ranging from the Ohio Mortgage Bankers Association to community activists to the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, but also passed the Ohio House of Representatives unanimously (no small feat in the this era of partisan discord).

[Am. Sub. H.B. 223](#) would codify certain procedures for general foreclosure actions, as well as help urban cities such as Columbus expedite the remediation of unoccupied and blighted parcels. It is now onto the Ohio Senate but I especially want to thank the bill's co-sponsors [Rep. Cheryl Grossman](#) (R-Grove City) and [Rep. Mike Curtin](#) (D-Marble Cliff), along with [Speaker of the House Bill Batchelder](#) (R-Medina), and [Rep. Richard Adams](#) (R-Troy), chair of the House Committee on Financial Institutions, Housing, and Urban Development.

If the bill eventually becomes law, look for a more in-depth analysis in one of our future e-newsletters.

I also want to thank Katie Poling of [Hondros College](#) for recently inviting me and Rep. Grossman to talk about the implications of H.B. 223 at one of Hondros' continuing education classes.

Finally, I would like to thank Mark Poeppelman and Kathy Moser of the [Columbus International Program](#) for arranging a dialogue with me and seven judges visiting from Libya. Their country is in state of transition and it will be interesting to watch as these jurists have a hand in shaping the course of their developing legal system.



A scene from City Attorney Pfeiffer's meeting with seven Libyan judges visiting the U.S. to learn more about our democratic legal system.

This is an e-publication of:
**Columbus City Attorney
Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr.**
77 North Front Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone 614.645.7385
Fax 614.645.6949
www.columbuscityattorney.org

Follow the Office of City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr.



Twitter



Facebook



Web



YouTube



Email



City Wins Lawsuit Against Developer

In a case that stretched out over several years and ultimately resulted in a relatively small financial judgment, the City of Columbus scored a big environmental victory.

Delaware County Common Pleas Court Judge W. Duncan Whitney ruled in favor of Columbus in its lawsuit against a developer accused of “recklessly” trespassing and cutting down 2.7 acres of trees and other vegetation on city property.

Assistant City Attorneys Westley Phillips and Andrew Miller represented the city in the case originally filed against developer SSA Ltd. in 2010. The lawsuit asserted that SSA, in its attempts to develop a large retail store and strip mall on land adjacent to the city property, was liable when it hired and specifically instructed a contractor to cut and remove hundreds of trees located on the city’s land.

The city property is considered public parkland and serves as a buffer zone to help control run off and protect the shoreline of O’Shaughnessy Reservoir.

The city’s property line was “easily distinguishable” from SSA’s land due to monuments that the city had placed, along with the “natural density of growth of the trees and other vegetation” on the city’s property, which was acquired by Columbus in 1923.

SSA also hired an engineering and surveying company to create plans for their proposed development, and therefore had “direct knowledge of the property line location.”

The Court determined that the reasonable cost of restoring the lost trees and vegetation was \$14,369. However, in finding “the trespass by SSA, Ltd. and its agent to be reckless,” the Court awarded the city treble damages in the amount of \$43,109.

The full Court decision may be read [here](#).



“Not only was public parkland damaged, but those trees also provided important environmental benefits that help keep the public’s drinking water supply clean. We’re pleased the general public will not have to foot the bill to restore what was lost.”

**Assistant City Attorney
Westley Phillips**



Images of the trespass and ‘reckless’ defoliation on city-owned land near O’Shaughnessy Reservoir.

In This Issue:

[Environmental
Victory](#)

[Victims’ Rights](#)

[News and Notes](#)

[Meet the Staff](#)

[Citizen Action](#)

This is an e-publication of:
**Columbus City Attorney
 Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr.**
 77 North Front Street
 Columbus, Ohio 43215
 Phone 614.645.7385
 Fax 614.645.6949
www.columbuscityattorney.org

City Attorney Chief of Staff Named ‘Prosecutor of the Year’

In recognition of a legal career devoted to protecting some of the most vulnerable members of our community, the Justice League of Ohio named Bill R. Hedrick their 2014 “Models of Justice Prosecutor of the Year.” Bill serves a dual role as Chief of Staff and First Assistant City Prosecutor for City Attorney Pfeiffer.

Having prosecuted over 20,000 cases during his 18 year tenure, Bill is well-known for raising awareness about the plight of victims and warning the public about rising crime trends.

The Justice League of Ohio honored Bill for his innovative contributions to criminal justice, including his widely recognized fight against animal abuse and his focus on quality-of-life issues that impact Columbus neighborhoods. He prosecuted notorious slumlord Stuart Kaplow in a case that garnered national media attention due to the unique ruling that ordered Kaplow to leave the comforts of his Bexley home and live in one of his dilapidated rental units until all his properties were brought up to code.

More recently, Bill prosecuted slumlord Sam Vazirani, whose violation of city building codes contributed to a tragic deadly fire at one of his properties. Bill secured the maximum sentence allowable under law against Vazirani. He also pushed to have Vazirani’s other properties either evacuated and properly boarded up or sold to responsible owners.

Bill has been hailed for embracing multi-media and social media as crime-fighting tools. Incorporating the Internet, social media, his own television program, traditional media, and community relationship-building, Bill has created a comprehensive network to alert the public about various crime trends while also trying to bring individuals with outstanding arrest warrants to justice.

Through these ventures, Bill has alerted potential victims of *Craig’s List* scams, helped uncover a *Dyson* vacuum cleaner theft ring, fought to put drunk drivers and hit-and-run suspects behind bars, targeted serial thieves and graffiti vandals, and pursued Columbus’ most-wanted animal abusers, including individuals associated with dog-fighting. More than 140 warrants have been served, as targeted fugitives have either been arrested, turned themselves in, or otherwise have been adjudicated.

Along with City Attorney Pfeiffer, Bill has made it a point of emphasis to recruit and hire Somali and Spanish speaking victim advocates in the office. Bill also expanded outreach to the GLBT community and helped improve the broader community’s understanding and awareness of hate crimes and domestic violence experienced by GLBT members.

His efforts have garnered attention from such far-flung places as Florida, South Dakota, Puerto Rico, Kenya, and even Hollywood.

More information on the Justice League may be found at www.thejusticeleagueohio.org.

“I want to thank Cathy Harper Lee and the Justice League of Ohio for their recognition, and express my sincere gratitude to our staff and community partners who work with me every day to help support victims.”

**City Attorney Chief of Staff
Bill R. Hedrick**

May 2014



In This Issue:

[Environmental
Victory](#)

[Victims’ Rights](#)

[News and Notes](#)

[Meet the Staff](#)

[Citizen Action](#)

This is an e-publication of:
**Columbus City Attorney
Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr.**
77 North Front Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone 614.645.7385
Fax 614.645.6949
www.columbuscityattorney.org



Principal Assistant City Attorney Robert Tobias about 30 minutes after he completed this year's *Boston Marathon*. Robert's brother, Adam, is a doctor at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and helped treat victims from last year's events. Robert was honored to race as a member of the hospital's charity team of 70 members who raised a combined \$614,000 for the Emergency Relief Fund associated with the medical center. The race was the experience of a lifetime for everyone involved.



In This Issue:

[Environmental Victory](#)

[Victims' Rights](#)

[News and Notes](#)

[Meet the Staff](#)

[Citizen Action](#)



City Attorney Pfeiffer, pictured with Assistant City Prosecutors David Ingram (left) and Jarrod Skinner (right), was honored to receive the 25th annual David D. White Award from Capital University Law School and the African American Law Alumni Association.

The award is given to individuals who have made a significant contribution to the African American community and is in honor of David White, who in 1931 became the first African American graduate of the Columbus School of Law (now Capital University Law School). Mr. White also was the first African American attorney licensed to practice law in Columbus and served as a partner at the law firm of Bell, White, and Ross for over 57 years.

Chief of Staff Bill Hedrick receiving a resolution from Columbus City Council for his efforts to support victims' rights. The resolution was sponsored by [Councilmember Zach Klein](#), chair of the public safety and judiciary committee. (Photo courtesy of Adam Leddy.)



This is an e-publication of:
Columbus City Attorney
Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr.
77 North Front Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone 614.645.7385
Fax 614.645.6949
www.columbuscityattorney.org



Along with interesting dialogue about the differences and similarities between the Libyan and U.S. justice systems, we learned that everyone, regardless of culture, apparently likes taking 'selfies.'

In This Issue:

[Environmental Victory](#)

[Victims' Rights](#)

[News and Notes](#)

[Meet the Staff](#)

[Citizen Action](#)

A behind-the-scenes look during the taping of the latest episode of *Fugitive Files* at CTV studios, with assistant producer Evan Smith.



Anne Murray, Director of our Domestic Violence and Stalking Unit, recently testified in support of Sub. S.B. 261 before the Ohio House Judiciary Committee.

The bill would strengthen protections for victims by broadening the circumstances under which prosecutors could prosecute protection order violations in Ohio.

Kudos to Anne for standing up for victims' rights against some critical questioning from members of the committee, as reported by the *Gongwer News Service*.

This is an e-publication of:
Columbus City Attorney
Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr.
77 North Front Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone 614.645.7385
Fax 614.645.6949
www.columbuscityattorney.org



Several of our employees recently volunteered their time to staff the WSYX ABC 6 *Fighting Back with Steve Levine* phone bank to help catch some of Columbus' most wanted thieves.



In This Issue:

[Environmental Victory](#)

[Victims' Rights](#)

[News and Notes](#)

[Meet the Staff](#)

[Citizen Action](#)



Our Domestic Violence team continued to reach out in the community. Victim Advocates Kristy Lawler and Sarah Dotters recently were invited to speak to a group of Community Watch Coordinators in the Brice Road area. Victim Advocates Jessica Hatem and Mary Culver spoke to students at the Columbus International High School who are members of the "Girl Up" group. The group, run by students for the students, meets at least twice a month and is designed to help build esteem, motivate, empower, and raise awareness. The group also completes service projects for local agencies. After hearing Jessica and Mary address their group, they chose the Domestic Violence Unit as their next service project. Victim Advocate Michelle Grizzle spoke at the Domestic Violence Project's "Dialogue for Hope" event in April.

This is an e-publication of:
Columbus City Attorney
Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr.
77 North Front Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone 614.645.7385
Fax 614.645.6949
www.columbuscityattorney.org

Meet the Staff

Having been born and raised in Columbus, Assistant City Attorney Jaiza Page always knew she wanted to give back to her community—even after she graduated from Georgetown University and started working on Capitol Hill.

It was while living in Columbus' Linden neighborhood when she was eight years old that Jaiza first decided she wanted to be an attorney. She recalled that her notion of attorneys at the time, based on watching TV and interacting with some of her mother's co-workers at the Ohio Consumers' Counsel, was that "attorneys help people, especially kids." From that point forward, her mind was set on becoming an attorney, even though some detractors thought she was too quiet to ever be an attorney.

But Jaiza had the strong support of her family, especially her mother and her "grannies," in addition to several important mentors who helped encourage her along the way. From the 6th grade until she graduated high school, Jaiza participated in the *Village to Child Program* at Ohio Dominican University, where Jo Ann Davis served as the program director and as Jaiza's lifetime mentor. Jaiza also was part of the high school program at OSU's John Glenn School of Public Affairs.

When deciding where to attend college, Jaiza considered Spellman, Harvard, and Notre Dame before settling on Georgetown with the advisement of Ms. Davis. But the first time Jaiza actually saw the Georgetown campus was her first day of classes. She quickly acclimated, majoring in Government and minoring in Spanish and African American Studies.

While in school, Jaiza worked for the National Guard Bureau (established by the Militia Act of 1903) in the J7 staff. Upon graduating early, she began working for [Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee](#) (D-Houston, TX). But her plan was always to fulfill her childhood goal so when considering law schools at Georgetown, the University of Michigan, William & Mary, and the University of Virginia, Jaiza chose to come home and attend the Moritz College of Law at Ohio State.

During Jaiza's first year of law school, her former mentor assigned through the Glenn School encountered her mother and inquired about Jaiza's academic career. That mentor happened to be City Attorney Pfeiffer. Jaiza eventually began working in the City Attorney's office as a law clerk in the Civil Division and upon graduating law school and passing the bar, she was hired full-time to work in the Zone Initiative. Jaiza values her role as a Zone Initiative Attorney, working with our safety forces, code enforcement, community groups, and residents to help abate public nuisances and address quality-of-life issues in our neighborhoods.

She appreciates being able to see the fruits of her labor in the community and making a difference in people's lives, whether it is getting dangerous eyesores demolished such as Lockwood Apartments in the Innis Garden Village neighborhood or helping a 94-year old woman who was living alone without utilities receive the adequate shelter she needed.

Jaiza's advice to aspiring law school students and young lawyers just starting out in their profession is the same advice City Attorney Pfeiffer gave her when she was 17 years old: "work hard, be honest, and ask questions." Following that advice has helped bring Jaiza full-circle as she works everyday in quiet determination to strengthen the city in which she grew up.



Jaiza Page

Title: Assistant City Attorney

Education: Ohio State University College of Law, J.D.; Georgetown University, B.A.; Columbus School for Girls, Columbus, Ohio



In This Issue:

[Environmental Victory](#)

[Victims' Rights](#)

[News and Notes](#)

[Meet the Staff](#)

[Citizen Action](#)



Citizen Action

Improper use of 911 is a serious crime, as valuable police resources and personnel time may be wasted by frivolous or fraudulent calls for help. **Non-emergency calls should be made to 645-4545 or 311.**

One of the individuals listed below has been accused of calling 911 about a potential shooting when in actuality he wanted officers to do something about an opossum in his basement.

According to section 2317.33 of the Columbus City Codes, "[n]o person shall knowingly use the telephone number of the 911 system if he or she knows that no emergency exists or for non-emergency telephone calls."

Watch the [WBNS 10TV report](#) on the improper use of 911 and [listen to some of the actual calls](#). You have to hear them to believe them.

Anyone with information concerning David Condellone or James F. Peters, Jr.—both of whom failed to appear in court to answer charges filed against them—is asked to please contact Assistant City Prosecutor Bill Hedrick at 614.645.8874 or brhedrick@columbus.gov.

If you are one of the listed individuals, you are strongly encouraged to turn yourself in or contact an attorney. The Columbus Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service can be reached at 614.221.0754 and the Franklin County Public Defender's Office can be reached at 614.525.3194.

In This Issue:

[Environmental Victory](#)

[Victims' Rights](#)

[News and Notes](#)

[Meet the Staff](#)

[Citizen Action](#)

DAVID CONDELLONE

WANTED



Last known address: 358 S. Glenwood Ave. • Columbus, Ohio 43223

DOB: 3/3/1971 (Age 43)

Height: 5'4" **Weight:** 155

Case Number(s): 2012 CRB

Hair: Red **Eyes:** Blue

031793

Charges: 2317.33 – Improper Use of 911

JAMES F. PETERS, JR.

WANTED



Last known address: 2538 Briggs Rd. • Columbus, Ohio 43223

DOB: 2/17/1965 (Age 49)

Height: 5'11" **Weight:** 170

Case Number(s): 2013 TRD 100982, **Hair:** Gray **Eyes:** Brown

2014 CRB 007227, 2014 CRB 006430,

2014 TRD 121762, 2014 TRD 126034, and 2014 TRD 126752

Charges: 2317.33 – Improper Use of 911; 2917.11(B) – Disorderly Conduct; 2171.06(B) – Pedestrian Solicitation in the Roadway Prohibited (three counts)

Follow the Office of City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr.



Twitter



FaceBook



Web



YouTube



Email