



CSU  
College of Law Library

Cleveland State University  
**EngagedScholarship@CSU**

---

2020s

The Gavel

---

3-2021

## 2021 March

Cleveland-Marshall College of Law

Follow this and additional works at: [https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/lawpublications\\_gavel2020s](https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/lawpublications_gavel2020s)  
**How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!**

---

### Recommended Citation

Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, "2021 March" (2021). 2020s. 1.  
[https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/lawpublications\\_gavel2020s/1](https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/lawpublications_gavel2020s/1)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the The Gavel at EngagedScholarship@CSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in 2020s by an authorized administrator of EngagedScholarship@CSU. For more information, please contact [library.es@csuohio.edu](mailto:library.es@csuohio.edu).



# THE GAVEL

VOLUME 69, ISSUE 5

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER AT CLEVELAND-MARSHALL COLLEGE OF LAW

March 2021

## Hate Is A Virus - Racism during COVID-19

**Aimee Fanter**  
Editor-in-Chief

Asian Americans have watched something spread even faster than COVID-19: the widespread hate and discrimination against members of their community.

On March 15, 2021, eight people were killed when a man opened fire in three Atlanta massage businesses. Six of the victims were of Asian descent. The shooter, Robert Long, was a white man who had bought his weapon the same day of the shooting.

He told law enforcement officers that the shooting was not racially motivated, but related to a sex addiction and he wanted to "eliminate the temptation" he felt.

A Georgia official, Capt. Jay Baker, said the shooter "had a bad day and this is what he did."

Baker is no longer a spokesman on the spa shootings case after many were outraged at his sympathy towards the Atlanta shooter, and later findings of Baker's previous social media posts that promot-



Photo by NPR

ed anti-Asian sentiments.

Listen, all of us have bad days. But we do not go into three separate Asian businesses and shoot Asian employees. Topics like assault and racism do not need a devil's advocate.

For many, the official's statements have downplayed the actions of a white suspect to having just a sex addiction. However, the issue here isn't about the broad category

of sex addiction.

The shooter wanted to eliminate the temptation of his sexual addiction, but he purposely drove past three strip clubs and a half dozen adult entertainment shops on his way between massage parlors.

If society glosses over this as a "violence against women" act, it ignores that this was specifically targeted against immigrant, working class, Asian women.

We clearly see the prejudice towards the Asian community a year after the pandemic started. COVID-19 is a global pandemic that has affected the everyday lives of hundreds of millions of people. This pandemic has revealed the negative perceptions of Asian Americans that have long been prevalent in American society. There are many people in the United States who condemn Asians as the origin of the contagious disease.

Under the Trump administration, many of the first reports by press and politicians labeled the disease as the "Wuhan Virus," or "Chinese flu," and reports flooded the media with a narrative that focused on China as the origin of COVID-19.

Because of this, the public perception has been that COVID-19 is a foreign virus, and public feelings have been expressed as xenophobia, prejudice, and violence against Asian Americans.

SEE COVID-19, page 7

## Ohio Passes Bill Requiring Fetal Abortion Remains to Be Buried or Cremated

**Jared Thomson**  
Gavel Contributor

In late December 2020, Ohio passed a new law that requires women who have surgical abortions to choose between cremating or burying fetal remains, refining the state's definition of "humane" disposal.

Senate Bill 27 was signed into law by Mike DeWine on December, 30, 2020. The new law requires a woman to meet with a physician conducting the surgery at least 24 hours before the procedure. She must be given reading materials and must sign a consent form to be permitted to have the surgery.

Abortion providers that violate the new law would be subject to a first degree misdemeanor which is punishable by not more than 6 months in jail, a \$1000 fine or both.

The controversial law has been criticized by abortion rights advocates and praised by pro-life proponents.

Jesse Hill, a volunteer attorney for ACLU of Ohio, criticized the bill stating "the law is about shaming and stigmatizing abortion and people who have abortions and trying to impose



Photo by The Guardian



Photo by AXIOS

the state's view of abortion on everyone."

Hill also said the law forces people to treat embryos as humans who have died in an offensive and intrusive manner, and places unfair restrictions on abortion providers who have to pay for the services.

The bill is nothing more than "legislative harassment," said ACLU of Ohio lobbyist Gary Daniels in his testimony against the bill. He pointed out that the legislation would not apply to embryos disposed of by fertility clinics or to fetal remains from medical abortions, miscarriages or still births.

Daniels pointed out that the bill "serves no legitimate medical purpose" and that it is an "obvious attempt to inconvenience patients, shut down abortion providers, and imprison doctors who do not comply with the numerous non-sensical regulations found in this bill.

Allie Frazier, communications director for the nonprofit Ohio Right to Life, supported the law and called it a "no-brainer."

"In Ohio we bury our dead. We are not going to allow unborn children to be callously

SEE OHIO, page 6



Editor's Box

Aimee Fanter  
Editor-in-Chief

Catelyn Cook  
Editor-in-Chief

Hailey Hillsman  
Managing Editor

Gabriella Russo  
Newly Elected Editor

~ Contributors ~

Megan Grantham

Michael Brody

Michael Dunham

Jared Thomson

~ Photographer ~

~ Contact Us ~

[gavel@csuohio.edu](mailto:gavel@csuohio.edu)

~Office~

1801 Euclid Ave, LB 13  
Cleveland, OH 44115

## Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Women's Law Students Association (WLSA) Sidebar

Megan Grantham  
Gavel Contributor

The month of March is known for many things, like the start of spring and St. Patrick's Day; the month is also known for celebrating and highlighting women's history, being Women's History Month.

At Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, WLSA (Women's Law Students Association) held an International Women's Day Sidebar event to celebrate International Women's Day, but the work the organization does to highlight and encourage women in the legal field goes far beyond events held during the month of March.

WLSA is a national organization, and a chapter has been around at Cleveland-Marshall for many years. The mission statement of the group is "law students advocating for the success and support of women in the legal profession and the community," explained Cleveland-Marshall WLSA President Kelly Fayen.

Fayen, now a 3L, said WLSA stood out to her as a worthwhile organization to join during her early days at Cleveland-Marshall. "Coming in, I knew that WLSA was definitely just a place to discuss issues that face women, not just in the legal community, but the Cleveland community as well. And I liked the idea that this was a safe space, that people were allowed to talk about things that were struggles they faced as women in the legal community," said Fayen.

The organization hosts different events throughout the year, like



Photo by University of Akron / Department of Student Life

panels and sidebars, ranging from topics like work life balance in the legal profession, litigation, corporate legal work, and real estate law.

"It's really just trying to learn what women have done outside of school to get to where they are, and try and help us figure out the best way to help each other to succeed," explained Fayen.

The group also hosted a sexual harassment seminar this year, which was co-sponsored by Black Law Student Association (BLSA) and OUTlaw.

Fayen also explained that WLSA is not just a group exclusively for women, but for all people who want to learn about women's issues in the legal community.

"We do focus on women's issues, but we also want to make this open to everyone. It's just important to get perspective and it's an important discussion for everyone to have. We," the executive board of WLSA, "appreciate that as membership is growing, it is both men and women. Everyone

is welcome."

Women make up more than 50% of the community at Cleveland-Marshall, explained Fayen, and having a group where women can come to speak openly about struggles they face is an important way to pinpoint women-specific struggles and ultimately try to eliminate them.

"Women face a lot of difficulties that men don't, and WLSA is a place where women can come and hear, or to seek assistance, and find a group of like-minded people that can share a discussion on social issues. And I think that's very important, because there are things that do need to be discussed."

"As we all go out into the working world, this support group is very, very important. In many law firms or bigger corporations, they have women's committees now, and that's showing that these discussions are happening, and I think having them begin in law school is extremely important."

## Update on controversial Ohio HB - 6

Michael Dunham  
Gavel Contributor

In July 2019, the Ohio General Assembly passed House Bill 6 (HB6). The bill bailed out two coal plants - one of them located outside of Ohio. An energy cost assistance program was abolished. Environmental standards were repealed. First Energy's nuclear power plant was bailed out.

The plant has been losing money for years. The plant had been bailed out on another occasion five years ago. The bailout resulted in a price increase for those who use the power grid. In exchange for the bailout, First Energy gave the state nothing.

The state gave away money to a private company with nothing in return. The law was passed by the legislature and there were not enough petitions to force a veto referendum on the bill. Therefore it became law.



Photo by Union of Concerned Scientists

After the bill became law, a criminal corruption investigation was started. The Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives was included in the scandal. Over 60 million dollars were exchanged for the passage of the bill using campaign contributions as a loophole.

The company that acted as the middle man of the deal is Generation Now. The company has plead guilty to bribery. The Speaker

has plead not guilty and is awaiting trial.

The legislature has had a mixed response to the scandal. Ohio House Republicans removed Speaker Larry Householder from office as Speaker, but did not expel him from the house. Mr. Householder was reelected in November to another term as a representative. Currently, the House is debating expelling Representative Householder.

During the 2020 legislative session, a bill to repeal HB 6 failed to get through committee. On March 10th, 2021 the Ohio House passed a bill amending and repealing parts of HB6. The Senate passed a bill that is a complete repeal. The houses are currently negotiating on a compromise bill that could pass both and go to the governor for signature. It is likely that the bill will be changed, but it remains to be seen if the bill will be repealed in its entirety.

Write for The Gavel: E-mail submissions to [gavel@csuohio.edu](mailto:gavel@csuohio.edu)



# COVID-19 and starting law school online

**Michael Brody**  
Gavel Contributor

At this point, I surely sound like a broken record. The past year has been immeasurably difficult for all of us at Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, for a variety of reasons. I am sure I speak for many of my classmates in the Class of 2023 when I say that starting law school online during the COVID-19 pandemic has been both an incredibly challenging and highly formative experience.

I write to share some aspects of my experience with starting law school online, which I believe reflects the broader experience of the Class of 2023 - at least to some degree.

I will begin with some brief background on myself. I graduated from John Carroll University in May 2020. I studied Political Science, and law school was always a part of my plan.

Fortunately, I had completed my law school applications in January 2020, so the chaos of the pandemic did little to hamper that process. However, the timing of the pandemic prevented me from attending Admitted Students Day or visiting campus.

Nonetheless, I made my decision to attend CIM Law in the Fall, despite the uncertainty of what the semester would look like. My first direct experience was with CIM Law was Jump Start. Nick DeSantis and the Academic Support Staff deserve immense credit for their efforts to acclimate our incoming class to grappling with the materials we would encounter in our classes. Even in a remote setting, I felt reassured and confident that our class would still be able to hit the ground running.

Shortly after I relocated from home to my downtown apartment, we had Orientation. Again, Dean Fisher and the rest of the Administration deserve every measure of credit for working to make the best out of a bad situation.

By the time orientation was taking place, we had learned that all our classes were going to be remote in the Fall. Opportunities to bond and make meaningful connections with each other, at least in the context of the law school, would thus be extremely limited.

Our introductions to each other, the faculty, and the law school itself through a computer screen were far from perfect. However, even from a distance, I immediately got the sense that the Faculty and Administration had our best interests at heart and



Photo by the National Jurist

were working carefully to balance a complicated and ever-changing situation.

Fall semester classes started soon after. While I was accustomed to Zoom by that point, I immediately noticed how much harder it was to stay focused during classes compared to being in person or my brief experience with Zoom in undergrad.

The online format may work for some, but I found it to be mostly dry, unengaging, and inorganic. Sometimes, the only thing keeping me focused was the ever-present threat of being cold-called (which happened to me in both of my day-one classes, oddly enough).

When I was not in class, I further struggled with how to tackle the hours of reading and briefing we were assigned each day. I have a decent study space in my apartment, but spending too much time anywhere can start to take a mental toll quickly. I soon decided to try to take advantage of the law library's limited hours one or two days a week, but the general lack of people in the library and the safety protocols put in place sometimes made that environment just as uncomfortable.

One thing I immediately noticed about online law school was the constant feeling that I was going it alone. Fortunately, my roommate is a good friend from undergrad, so I at least have someone around that I can talk to.

Regardless, the pandemic and its accompanying isolation made it incredibly difficult to stay connected to my other friends whom I had previously relied on for support. It was also challenging to make meaningful connections with my classmates or upperclassmen.

Although I joined some student organizations, including Phi Alpha Delta, no amount of well-intentioned virtual happy hours

could replace those moments of casual conversation in between classes, or the hours spent in study groups that we would have gotten to experience in-person.

This feeling of isolation also presented itself when trying to make use of other campus resources. For example, meeting with Academic Support and going to office hours for professors or tutors were theoretically easier; just hop on Zoom! But after spending close to 8 hours a day staring at a screen, between attending classes and completing assignments, often the last thing I wanted to do is join yet another Zoom call.

This mental block is something I am still struggling to overcome midway through the Spring semester, though it has gotten better. There is such a thing as Zoom fatigue, and there are days where I certainly suffer from it.

Fall exams were over before I knew it, although the anticipation leading up to them was palpable. Having remote, open-book exams felt like a double-edged sword.

On the one hand, we could feel assured that we did not exactly need to have our entire outlines memorized. However, there was a definite anxiety that something would go wrong technology-wise. I have a prayer that I always say to myself before I take an exam, and in addition to asking for calmness and clarity, I added an extra line for hoping my Wi-Fi would not go out (fortunately, it did not). If it had, even the solutions were clearly communicated to us and only a phone call away, I cannot imagine how much that would have thrown me off, and I deeply sympathize with anyone to whom that has happened.

I was disappointed to see that Spring semester was set to look much the same as the Fall. This showed its relevance particu-

larly in terms of the Summer job search. Career Services did a good job of bringing us up to speed over the winter break, but it was hard to ignore the reality that we lost basically all the networking opportunities we normally would have normally had.

The uncertainty as to how profoundly the job market has been impacted by COVID-19 also loomed large as I worked to submit applications to jobs and externships. Another aspect that sets the Spring semester apart from the Fall is the lack of any Spring Break.

This is something that I knew would have an impact on student motivation, but I could not have imagined it being this profound.

The additional reading days do not act as meaningful breaks, and there has not been a single day since the beginning of the semester where I have not had several hours of school-related work to do, often in addition to attending class.

My motivation to finish strong remains mostly intact, but I can honestly say I have never felt more burnt out, and I have never looked forward to the end of a semester more.

Uncertainty and ongoing struggle have indeed been the major themes of this year. Starting law school online has been no different. As rewarding as it is to know that I am nearly done with my first year, it is also disheartening at times to realize that I am already one-third of the way through law school and have yet to experience things as they "normally" are.

However, I look with a hopeful eye toward the next several months as more people across Ohio get vaccinated. I am more optimistic than I have been at any point this year that the next semester will resemble something closer to normal.



# A Mega-Crisis with Mega-Constellations

**Aimee Fanter**  
Editor-in-Chief

To humanity, outer space is the last great unknown. The notion of the night sky has always painted a mysterious and romantic picture – untouched by civilization.

But this changed in 1957, with the launch of Sputnik 1. Soon after, our night sky changed. We no longer see just the thousands of stars with our naked eyes, the flash of comets dashing across the horizon, or the details in our Milky Way. Today, we see space has been touched by a great extent.

There are thousands of satellites currently orbiting Earth, and hundreds of satellites are visible to the naked eye. The number of satellites from mega-constellations has risen astronomically with more than 1000 in orbit, and brighter than 99% of all previous satellites.

There are still over 100,000 new satellites planned to be launched by the end of the decade. The impact of this satellite network strongly affects astronomers, and they are facing a mega crisis.

According to the American Astronomical Society and NOIRLAB, an umbrella organization for



Photo by DNV



Photo by Legal Life Path

several US observatories, satellites can reflect sunlight and appear as bright streaks.

These streaks interfere with astronomer’s observations, and pollute the night sky. According to the Co-Chair at NOIRLab,

Connie Walker, there is only one way to avoid any impact from these satellites, and that would be to launch zero satellites. But this isn’t feasible.

Instead, astronomers have tried to minimize the impact of

these satellite mega-constellations at all stages. This included minimizing the brightness during deployment and orbit raising, final orbit and deorbiting, as well as other recommendations.

Astronomers at the Astronomical Observatory of Trieste in Italy have even called for legal action to stop the launch of mega-constellations until they can research the impact on the night sky. The astronomers quote the potential harm of these satellite networks as damage to our cultural heritage, the night sky, and monetary damage due to loss of astronomy.

The FCC has stated that its approval of mega-constellations is lawful. Currently, there are no binding laws or regulations on how to address this issue concerning astronomers. Should the private organizations who are launching satellite mega-constellations do more to protect astronomers, or should State and international bodies provide stronger mitigation strategies?

One thing is certain though. The priority should be to practice regulations that will protect Earth’s orbit and our night sky for this and future generations.

---

## Ohio’s Death Penalty: The Benefitted and the Burdened

**Gabriella Russo**  
Newly Elected Editor

The death penalty, historically, has been somewhat of a constant in Ohio, with most death penalties occurring via public hangings until 1885. By 1885, the publicization of criminals being put to death ended and death row and executions were moved to the Ohio Penitentiary in Columbus.

The electric chair was first used in executions in Ohio in 1897 and during its tenure executed 3 women and 312 men. The last person to be electrocuted to death via the electric chair was Donald Reinbolt in 1963.

By 1981, there was a reemergence in the importance of the death penalty to deter seriously vile crimes. Bipartisan coalitions were trying to defend this tactic of the criminal justice system and thought the overarching sentiment of all Ohioans was that the death penalty

was a necessity.

There is no evidence, scientific or otherwise proving the hypothesis that defends the death penalty time and time again – death is a superior deterrent.

Factually, it is not, and the National Academy of Science has combed through all of these studies and worked in tandem with chiefs of police who all agree there are other much more effective means at reducing the rates of violent crime in the Buckeye State.

The funding for lethal injections could be helping families of the victims of murder live with their grief through a large mental health network, but instead costs them time, tax dollars, and even further anguish.

The Constitution may be color blind, but Ohio’s death penalty is not given that 56% of the inmates on death row currently are people of color.



Photo by WOUB Public Media

In fact, an African-American killing a white victim is 3 to 4 times more likely to be sentenced to the death penalty, plus, the death penalty 75% of the time is used to avenge a white person’s death.

If all people are to be equal under the law, why should a person of color be sentenced to death for the alleged killing of a white person and when a white person slays a person of color, they are not held to the same accountability level?

Aside from implicit bi-

ases within the criminal justice system, there is no justifiable answer to this question. Currently, 59% of Republicans and Democrats in Ohio support replacing the death penalty with life in prison with parole, and I think for the future of CM-Law graduates, this fight continues to be waged.

For every law student interested in criminal justice, the death penalty is not part of that equation and that cannot be diminished.



# Women Demanding Respect and Gender Equality Through the Law

Gabriella Russo  
Newly Elected Editor

Every March, the world prepares to celebrate the achievements of women, big and small, in all fields, but on March 8th in particular, the celebrations can really begin.

This past Monday, March 8th, was the annual International Women’s Day. The first International Women’s Day celebration was in 1911 which was supported by a million people.

Remember, historically, the vote was not won for women in American until 1920. The first licensed female attorney was a woman named Arabella Mansfield, aka Belle Babb Mansfield, and she was not allowed to study in a law school due to sexist laws in practice; however, Mansfield was able to study law while working at her brother’s legal office.

A native Iowan, Mansfield knew she had to fight back to be able to gain her license. At that time, the late 1860s, the state bar exam was only administered to males over the age of 21, but Mansfield challenged the law and passed the exam with high scores. Mansfield was admitted to the bar in 1869.

Charlotte E. Ray, was the first African-American female attorney in the United States, being admitted to the D.C. Bar in 1872. To have success at the bar, she ap-



Photo by The Conversation

plied for admission under the male pseudonym, C.E. Ray tricking the admissions committee into thinking she was a man.

Some of the main obstacles faced by women in the legal field from the time of Mansfield and Ray still remain prevalent today.

There are traditional sexual stereotypes or gender discrimination not in a traditional sense since male and female practitioners now round out when it comes to pure percentages of who is working as a lawyer and who is not.

A 2015 gender-bias survey conducted by the National Association for Law Placement (NALP) reveals that only 17.4% of women were equity partners in the surveyed U.S. law firms. Con-

versely, the survey found 28.8% of women worked as non-equity partners.

Being left out when it comes to important discourse impacting the entire firm is detrimental to female attorneys within these firms and does not assist with creating a more harmonious atmosphere for men and women.

There are struggles with work-life balance faced by women too, which have been aggravated through this pandemic. Lots of women have to be the primary caregiver for their children and are unable to prioritize work. Being able to practice law requires tons of focus, which cannot be accessed when small children are around.

For example, when the late,

great Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg enrolled at Harvard Law School in 1956, she eventually had to care for her young daughter, Jane, and help take care of her husband Martin, who had recently been diagnosed with cancer.

She had to transfer to Columbia Law School in 1958 because Martin received a job in New York, meaning she had to completely relocate her life, future career, and stability for the sake of holding her family together.

To wheel it back to the triumphs of a female alumni from Cleveland-Marshall, look no further than the newly appointed Housing and Urban Development Secretary. Marcia Fudge became mayor of Warrensville Heights, but began in the suburb of Shaker Heights when she was in sixth grade.

She graduated from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law in 1983, and has made it her mission while serving in the House of Representatives to help those that are underprivileged.

This marks the first time an African-American woman has served in the position, and shows that no matter where you go to law school, ivy league, or not, that it matters less about where you go to law school and more about what you choose to achieve with your law degree. Case in point, Secretary Fudge.

## Cleveland State University Mass Vaccination Site

Aimee Fanter  
Editor-in-Chief

Starting on March 17th, 2021, the Wolstein Center started serving as a FEMA-operated mass vaccination site to offer COVID-19 vaccines. This is the first-state federal Mass Vaccination Clinic in Ohio.

“We stand front and center with our federal, state and local partners in serving our community in this important way,” said Cleveland State University President Harlan Sands. “As Cleveland’s public research institution, providing these critical vaccinations is mission-central for CSU.”

For all information regarding vaccination eligibility, appointments and guidelines, visit <https://gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov/> or call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH.

The site will operate seven days a week from 8:00 AM - 8:00

PM for a total of eight weeks. The Ohio Department of Health, Ohio National Guard and Ohio Emergency Management Agency will manage the Wolstein Center site with support from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the U.S. Department of Defense, Cleveland State University, the City of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County.

### How to get a COVID Vaccination:

The Pfizer vaccine will be distributed for the first three weeks, with second doses given out weeks four to six. The clinic will then switch to the one-dose Johnson and Johnson vaccine for weeks seven and eight. You can find more information about how to get a COVID vaccination at the Wolstein center.

### Eligibility:



Photo by Cleveland State University

On March 22nd, 2021, Governor DeWine announced that everyone 16+ in Ohio can now schedule for COVID-19 vaccine if slots are available.

### Transportation:

Foot and car traffic is expected to increase around the Wolstein Center during the hours the clinic operates, as up to 6,000 vaccines are planned to be administered each day. The city, with support from CSU and our state partners, will manage traffic.

The Greater Cleveland RTA is offering free transportation to the site. There is a bus drop-off at the corner of East 21st Street and Prospect Avenue and a ride-share drop off around the corner by Carnegie Avenue.

CSU will offer free parking in several garages, including South Garage next to the Wolstein Center, for people coming for vaccinations. Spots will still be reserved for students and faculty who normally park in those garages.



OHIO  
From page 1

thrown in the trash and we believe this is a way to help uphold the dignity of not only the innocent human lives taken in an abortion, but also our own humanity,” Frazier said.

Other states have enacted similar laws in recent years. In 2016, Texas went even further with a law later blocked by a federal judge in 2018, mandating that fetal tissue from abortions miscarriages or ectopic pregnancy surgery must be disposed of through burial or cremation.

In 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a law in Indiana,



Photo by Voice of America

a model for the Ohio law, limiting its requirements to aborted fetuses and omitted miscarriages. The ruling from the Justices also left the possibility for the burial and cremation laws to be challenged on different grounds in a future challenge.

The House endorsed the bill by a 60-36 vote. The Senate voted 24-7 in favor of the bill, including every Republican and one Democrat State Senator Sean O’Brien.

The main sponsor was Senator Joe Uekcer, who resigned from the legislature in 2020.

# Ohio stand your ground bill

Jared Thomson  
Gavel Contributor

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine signed Senate Bill 175 into law back on January 4th, 2021. The bill sponsored by State Senator Tim Schaffer (R) removes the “duty to retreat” requirement before the use of deadly force with a firearm in self-defense.

The previous “stand your ground” law only applied in a person’s home or vehicle. The new bill expands the locations on which a person has no duty to retreat before the use of a firearm in self-defense to anywhere a person has a lawful right to be.

The possibility of retreat will no longer be a factor in determining whether the force used in self-defense or in the defense of another was necessary to prevent serious bodily harm or death.

In the aftermath of the 2019 mass shooting in Dayton where nine were killed and many wounded, DeWine urged the legislature to set aside the “stand your ground” doctrine and pass a package of what he referred to as “common sense” gun reforms.

Included in his proposals were increased penalties against violent offenders caught with firearms, expansion of ability of courts to confiscate firearms, and improve the background check process.

After that “STRONG Ohio” bill faltered in committee DeWine implied in late December that he might veto “Stand your Ground.”

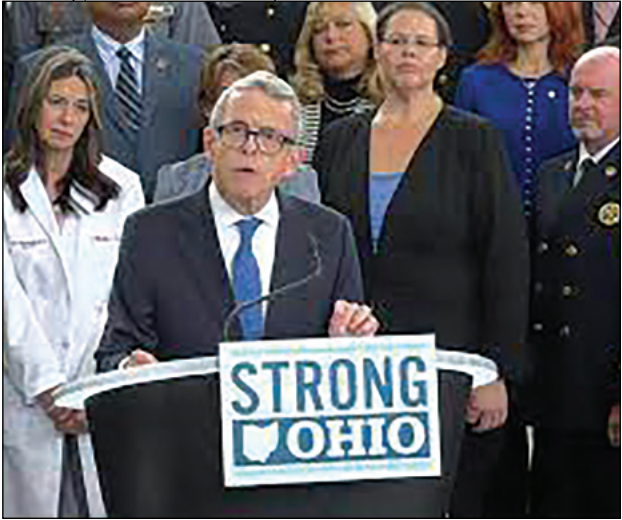


Photo by NPR



Photo by The Bottom Line

The bill was attached to a bill that grants civil immunity to nonprofit corporations for certain injuries or deaths that result from the carrying of handguns. Mike DeWine issued a written statement after signing the bill stating, “I have always believed that law-abiding citizens have the right to protect themselves when confronted with a life-threatening situation.

While campaigning for Governor I expressed my support for removing the ambiguity in Ohio’s self-defense law, and Senate Bill 175 accomplishes that goal. That is why I have signed this bill today.”

DeWine criticized the legislature for not including additional provisions to create more stringent requirements to “make it harder for dangerous criminals to illegally possess and use guns.”

“Stand Your Ground” has been a priority for gun rights groups in Ohio. But the bill has been

opposed by Democrats and gun control advocates including Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley who urged DeWine to follow through with a veto, arguing that “Stand Your Ground” would make Ohio a more dangerous place for people of color.

State Senator Kenny Yuko (D) of Cleveland also criticized the bill stating, “[t]his is not what people meant when they asked us to do something last year after the deadly mass shooting in Dayton.”

Minority Leader Emilia Strong Sykes (D) also condemned the governor signing the bill, going so far to call DeWine a coward. “Only cowards would pass and sign a bill that has been proven to disproportionately harm Black people. Only cowards sign a bill that allows people to shoot first and ask questions later.”

The bill passed the House in a 52-31 vote on December 17, 2020 and the next day the bill passed the Senate by a vote of 18-11.



COVID-19  
From page 1

Due to COVID-19, the racial positionality of Asian Americans faces a real threat – a threat to their safety and mental health.

Not only are Asian Americans at risk of exposure to COVID-19 like the rest of the population, but they must contend with the additional risk of victimizations, intimidation, and harassment.

However, racism and xenophobia are just a part of the bigger issue. The historical legacy of white supremacy and domination over minorities have produced these extreme reactions in society.

This isn't just hate. This surge in violence isn't new. This is centuries of white supremacy and racism at work, and if we are to stop Asian hate, it's important to address the root of the problem, not just its symptoms. White supremacy is embedded into the bones of the United States, and to many people the reality is harsh.

This creates a state of denial, and within this state of denial lives a rejection of facing conversations about racism. The media portrays the violence against Asian-Americans, but often skirts around the topic of racism, like in the Atlanta shootings case. This is often due to feeling discomfort in talking about racism.

But the discomfort of simply talking and acknowledging racism is nothing in comparison to the discomfort of experiencing it first-hand. It is not enough for us to be “not racist” – we must actively stand up against racism when we see and hear it.

The spread and increased se-



Photo by The Guardian



Photo by The Guardian

verity of the pandemic has caused fear and panic, with COVID-19 social restrictions and financial hardships increasing for many Americans.

Because of this, the number of anti-Asian hate crimes – which includes shunning, slurs, and physical violence – is revealed to be nearly 3,800 incidents in a year.

This is significantly higher than last year's count of about 2,600 hate incidents nationwide over the span of five months. In

this research, women have reported twice as many anti-Asian hate incidents, forming 68% of targeted violence, and men make up 29%.

Stop AAPI Hate reports that 70% of coronavirus discrimination involves verbal harassment, with over 1,000 incidents reported in a four-week period. The hateful language that targets all Asians, not just Chinese Americans, demonstrates the racialization of Asian Americans.

While the majority of Ameri-

cans have taken shelter by staying in their homes during COVID-19, statistics show that 80% of the self-reported anti-Asian incidents have taken place outside of people's private residences.

These places are usually grocery stores, local businesses, and public places. In addition to the threats and physical attacks against Asian Americans, there are many who have filed reports of vandalism and property damage targeted at Asian-owned businesses.

President Joe Biden has addressed the issue of anti-Asian attacks, and in addition to referencing the violence in his first national prime-time address, he has signed a memorandum that issues guidance on how the Justice Department should respond to the increasing anti-Asian violence. The memorandum focuses specifically on hate incidents, rather than hate crimes, to be able to frame the issue comprehensively.

Skin color is not a symptom. You can condemn anti-Asian racism and violence by raising awareness. It is vital to engage with and share news and content related to these issues to amplify Asian voices. You can provide space for experiences to be shared, and listen to and believe their struggles while reflecting on biases within yourself.

Take the time to educate yourself, and recognize the need for solidarity during these times and advocate for safety rooted in accountability and justice.

As an Asian-American, I cannot eloquently say how much I want my community to not end up as a statistic on someone's “bad day.”

# Cleveland State University plans for Fall 2021

Catelyn Cook  
Editor-in-Chief

Cleveland State has been taking steps to ensure a safe return to on-campus learning this fall. The university's main focus has been on aiding in the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine through the mass vaccination clinic taking place at the Wolstein Center.

The clinic is open from 8:00 am to 7:30 pm, and its goal is to vaccinate 6,000 people per day with 210,000 total available doses planned. Some doses have been set aside for underserved minority communities according to Governor DeWine.

Individuals may register online at <http://gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov/> or over the phone at 1-833-427-5634 to receive their



Photo by Cleveland State University

vaccine. Free parking and RTA rides are available to access the clinic. So far, around 30 percent of Ohioans have received at least one dose. The vaccines are thought to be between 80 to 90 percent effective at preventing infection.

Additionally, Cleveland State is requiring that students who intend to live on campus next year

get vaccinated before moving in during the month of August. The university anticipates that classes will be held primarily in-person, and safety precautions will remain in place.

Governor DeWine hopes to have most college students vaccinated by May 1st before school lets out for summer, since these stu-

dents may be carriers of the virus and contribute to its spread.

The Johnson & Johnson one dose shot is currently preferred for the vaccination of this specific population since it is easier to schedule.

As of now, Ohio has seen an increase in positive COVID-19 cases from 150 per 100,000 to 167.7 per 100,000. Hospitalizations have also increased in response. This rise has prompted Ohio to double down on vaccinations and safety measures, including social distancing and mask wearing, in order to prevent this trend from continuing.

For restrictions to be lifted, Governor DeWine has stated that Ohio would need to see a decrease to 50 cases per 100,000 people for two weeks. Until then, precautions will remain in place.