

# **Just the Beginning:**

November 2, 2003-February 11, 2004

Contributions to Candidates for  
Chief Justice and Justice  
of the Ohio Supreme Court

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## Introduction

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Ohio has become the national poster child for highly politicized Supreme Court with a reputation for high stakes and big money. In 1994 and again in 1999, the Ohio Supreme Court struck down tort reform. These rulings voided dollar limits on jury awards established by the Ohio Legislature and drew attacks on the court by the business community in 2000. A big money fight between the medical establishment and the insurance industry versus plaintiff or trial attorneys characterized Election 2002. In January 2003, Governor Taft signed into law a statute of limitations for filing a claim for medical malpractice. Although it imposes no limits on compensatory damages for economic loss, it establishes limits on non-economic damages for injury, death or loss of property to \$500,000 per plaintiff or \$1 million per occurrence. This year four seats on the Ohio Supreme Court are up for election and the balance of the court is at stake.

**This study examines contributions to candidates for Chief Justice and Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court from November 2, 2003 to February 11, 2004.** This study is based on a database of filings of candidates for Ohio Supreme Court, available in computerized form from the Ohio Secretary of State and includes both the 2003 Annual and the 2004 Pre-Primary filings. Totals include both monetary and in-kind contributions. To identify personal injury attorneys, the Ohio Citizen Action Education Fund used a database of law firms that advertise in the *Yellow Pages* as personal injury attorneys. This captured those who publicly identified themselves as personal injury attorneys. However, this study likely underestimates contributions that can be attributed to personal injury attorneys and certainly does not include all plaintiff or trial attorneys.

**All the candidates for Ohio Supreme Court raised \$867,649 from November 2, 2003 to February 11, 2004.** Chief Justice Thomas J. Moyer raised \$239,750; and his challenger C. Ellen Connally was not required to file a Pre-Primary report because she generated less than \$1,000 in campaign contributions and did not expend \$1,000. Endorsed Democrat W. Scott Gwin raised \$161,244; his Democratic challenger Nancy A. Fuerst \$134,155; and Republican challenger Judith Lanzinger \$153,781. Justice Paul Pfeifer received only one contribution of \$5,000. Appointed incumbent Terrence O'Donnell overshadowed his challenger, William O'Neill (\$3,041), by generating \$170,678.

## Findings

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**The contributions to candidates for the Ohio Supreme Court appear to reflect the kind of decisions that the contributors want.** Some like the plaintiff attorneys want a “pro-consumer court” and some like the insurance industry want a “pro-business” court.

**Three Democratic candidates received more than one-third (1/3) of their contributions from personal injury attorneys from November 2, 2003-February 11, 2004.** Nancy A. Fuerst received 37% from personal injury attorneys; W. Scott Gwin 52% and William O'Neill 34%. The Democratic candidate for chief justice did not file a contribution report and Justice Paul Pfeiffer received only one contribution for \$5,000 from Palmer Volkema & Thomas, a personal

injury law firm. Chief Justice Thomas J. Moyer received 2.4% from personal injury attorneys; Justice O'Donnell received only 0.14% and Judith Lanzinger 0.03%.

**Insurance industry Political Action Committees (PACs) gave \$48,250 to Republican candidates from November 2, 2003- February 11, 2004.** O'Donnell received \$17,750 from insurance PACs; Moyer \$16,000 and Lanzinger \$14,500. These PACs failed to make any contributions to the Democratic candidates or to Pfeiffer who does not face Democratic opposition in his bid for re-election. Three Republican candidates received ten percent (10%) or more of their contributions from the insurance industry from November 2, 2003 to February 11, 2004. O'Donnell received 13.5% of his contributions from the insurance industry; Lanzinger 11.6% and Moyer received 10%. Gwin received 1.5% from insurance and Fuerst received 0.73%. Neither O'Neill nor Pfeiffer received money from the insurance industry.

**Top Ten Organizational Contributors:**

Janik & Dorman	Attorneys	\$20,050
Okey Law Firm	Attorneys	\$18,050
Bricker & Eckler	Attorneys	\$17,550
Ohio State Medical Association		
Physicians		\$16,600
Nurenberg Plevin Heller & McCarthy Co., LPA	Attorneys	\$15,750
Allen Schulman & Associates	Attorneys	\$13,000
Murray & Murray	Attorneys	\$12,219
Procter & Gamble	Manufacturing	\$11,600
Spangenberg Shibley & Liber	Attorneys	\$11,250
Clark Perdue Roberts & Scott Co., LPA		Attorneys
\$11,000		

**The Ohio Republican Party has invested significantly more money than the Democrats in this year's judicial election.** Ohio Republican Party committees and candidates contributed \$85,520 to candidates running for the Ohio Supreme Court from November 2, 2003 to February 11, 2004. Ohio Democratic Party committees and candidates contributed only \$2,706.

## Contributions to 2004 Candidates for Chief Justice and Justice of Ohio Supreme Court

### 2004 Candidates for Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court *Contributions Raised November 2, 2003-February 11, 2004*

Candidate	Party	Seat	Total
C. Ellen Connally	Democrat	Challenger	\$0
Thomas J. Moyer	Republican	Incumbent	\$239,750

***Includes both monetary and in-kind contributions***

The Connally for Chief Justice Committee did not file a campaign finance report with the Ohio Secretary of State's office during the Pre-Primary period because the committee did not raise or expend \$1,000.

### 2004 Candidates for Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court *Contributions Raised November 2, 2003-February 11, 2004*

Candidate	Party	Seat	Total
Nancy A. Fuerst	Democrat	Open	\$134,155
W. Scott Gwin	Democrat	Open	\$161,244
Judith Lanzinger	Republican	Open	\$153,781
Paul E. Pfeifer	Republican	Incumbent	\$5,000
William O'Neill	Democrat	Challenger	\$3,041
Terrence O'Donnell	Republican	Appointed Incumbent	\$170,678
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$867,649</b>

***Includes both monetary and in-kind contributions***

All the candidates for Ohio Supreme Court raised \$867,649 from November 2, 2003 to February 11, 2004. These eight candidates together received a total of 1,599 contributions. This can be compared to the 2002 Pre-Primary period in which the four candidates for Ohio Supreme Court raised \$1,120,888 and received total of 2,039 contributions. Each of the 2002 candidates individually raised a minimum of \$125,000 in this comparable time period.

**Comparison of contributions from the  
top three economic sectors for each candidate  
November 2, 2003-February 11, 2004**

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Top Sector</b>	<b>Second Sector</b>	<b>Third Sector</b>
C. Ellen Connally/ Democratic Challenger	N/A	N/A	N/A
Thomas J. Moyer/ Republican Incumbent	\$122,150 Lawyers	\$24,120 Insurance	\$15,655 Health
Nancy A. Fuerst/ Democrat, Open Seat	\$113,140 Lawyers	\$3,525 Civil Servants & Public Employees	\$1,560 Finance
W. Scott Gwin/ Democrat, Open Seat	\$135,544 Lawyers	\$3,500 Real Estate	\$2,500 Insurance
Judith Lanzinger/ Republican, Open Seat	\$38,325 Lawyers	\$37,446 Ideological*	\$19,250 Health
Paul Pfeifer/ Republican, Incumbent	Lawyers \$5,000	N/A	N/A
William O'Neill/ Democratic Challenger	\$1,500 Labor Union	\$1,080 Lawyers	\$441 Ideological
Terrence O'Donnell/ Appointed Incumbent	\$40,475 Lawyers	\$33,603 Ideological	\$23,050 Insurance

**These contributions include organizations, PACs and employee contributions.**

\*Ideological includes political parties, candidate committees and single-issue groups.

N/A means "not applicable." Connally did not file a contribution report and Pfeifer received only one contribution (\$5,000).

Lawyers and law firms, the top economic sector for all the candidates, except for O'Neill, contributed \$455,714 to candidates for Ohio Supreme Court. One-third (32.9%) of the contributions from attorneys were from personal injury attorneys (\$149,980).

**Comparison of contributions from physicians,  
insurance companies and personal injury attorneys**

November 2, 2003-February 11, 2004

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Physicians &amp; Hospitals Total</b>	<b>Insurance Total</b>	<b>Personal Injury Attorneys Total</b>
C. Ellen Connally-D	\$0	\$0	\$0
Thomas J. Moyer-R	\$14,655	\$24,120	\$5,850
Nancy A. Fuerst-D	\$750	\$990	\$49,810
W. Scott Gwin-D	\$500	\$2,500	\$84,550
Judith Lanzinger-R	\$15,750	\$17,850	\$3,500
Paul Pfeifer-R	\$0	\$0	\$5,000
William O'Neill-D	\$0	\$0	\$1,020
Terrence O'Donnell-R	\$15,125	\$23,050	\$250
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$46,780</b>	<b>\$68,510</b>	<b>\$149,980</b>
<i>Includes contributions from PACs , employees and organizations.</i>			

Three Republican candidates received ten percent (10%) or more of their contributions from the insurance industry. O'Donnell received 13.5% of his contributions from the insurance industry; Lanzinger 11.6%; and Moyer 10%. Gwin received 1.5% from insurance and Fuerst received 0.73%. Neither O'Neill nor Pfeiffer received money from the insurance industry.

**Top Contributions from Insurance**

	<b>Firm</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Total Contribution</b>
1.	Nationwide Insurance	Columbus	\$7,600
2.	Grange Mutual Casualty Co.	Columbus	\$7,000
3.	Travelers Property Casualty Corp.	Hartford, CT	\$6,000
	Hartford Insurance	Hartford, CT	\$6,000
4.	Motorists Mutual Insurance	Columbus	\$4,500
	Western Southern Life Insurance	Cincinnati	\$4,500
5.	Ohio Casualty Insurance Company	Cincinnati	\$3,500

*Includes contributions from PACs and from employees.*

Paul Pfeiffer received only one contribution of \$5,000 from Palmer Volkema & Thomas, a personal injury law firm. Three Democratic candidates received more than one-third (1/3) of

their contributions from personal injury attorneys. Gwin received 52% of his contributions from personal injury attorneys; Fuerst received 37% and O'Neill 34%. Moyer received 2.4% from personal injury attorneys and O'Donnell received only 0.14% and Judith Lanzinger 0.03%.

**Top Contributions from Personal Injury Attorneys 11/2/03-2/11/04**

	<b>Firm</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Total Contribution</b>
1.	Okey Law Firm	Canton	\$18,050
2.	Nurenberg Plevin Heller & McCarthy Co.	Cleveland	\$15,750
3.	Allen Schulman & Associates	Canton	\$13,000
4.	Spangenberg Shibley & Liber	Cleveland	\$11,250
5.	Friedman Domiano & Smith Co., LPA	Cleveland	\$8,325
<i>Includes contributions directly from the law firms or their PAC and from employees.</i>			

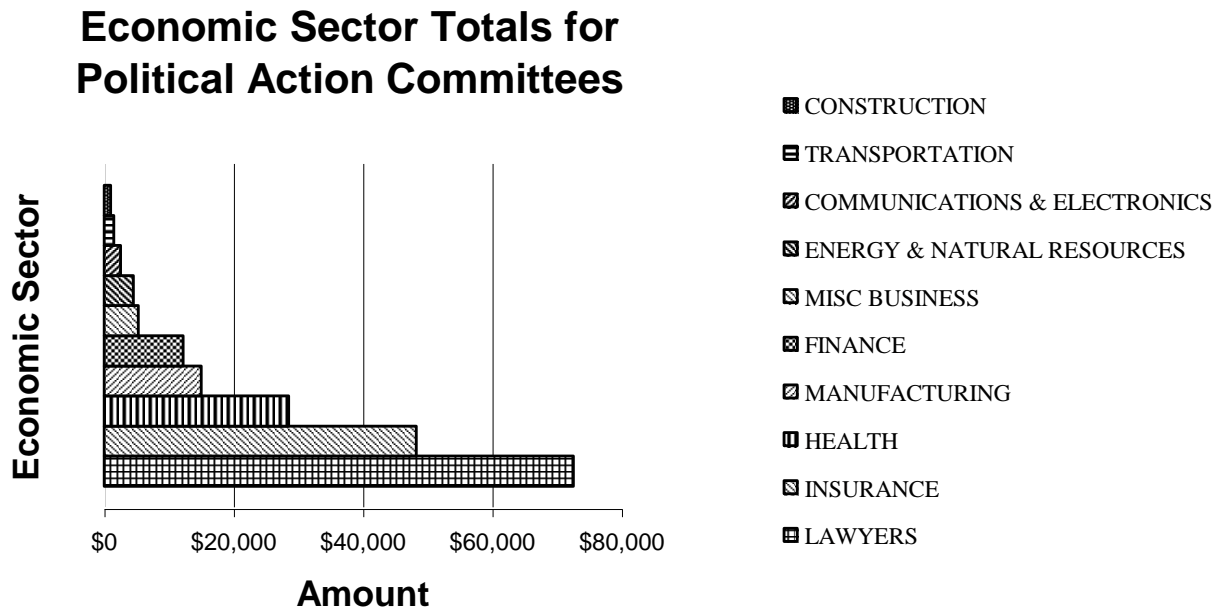
**Top Contributions from Political Action Committees**

**November 2, 2003-February 11, 2004**

	<b>Political Action Committee Sponsor</b>	<b>Amount</b>
1.	Bricker & Eckler	\$16,500
	Ohio State Medical Association	\$16,500
2.	Procter & Gamble	\$11,500
3.	Vorys Sater Seymour & Pease	\$7,000
	Grange Mutual Casualty Company	\$7,000
4.	Reminger & Reminger	\$6,500
5.	Ohio Hospital Association	\$6,250
6.	CNA Financial Corporation	\$6,000
	Hartford Insurance	\$6,000
	Nationwide Insurance	\$6,000
	Travelers Property Casualty Corp	\$6,000
7.	Motorists Mutual Insurance	\$4,500
	Western Southern Life Insurance	\$4,500
8.	Craig J. Wright Attorney at Law	\$4,000
	Wholesale Beer & Wine Assoc of Ohio	\$4,000
9.	Baker & Hostetler	\$3,700
10.	Thompson Hine & Flory	\$3,500
	Ohio Casualty Insurance Company	\$3,500

None of the top contributions from Political Action Committees (PACs) are from personal injury law firms. Many of the personal injury firms are unincorporated businesses and are not required to give through a PAC.

Political Action Committees (PACs) contributed \$191,250 to Ohio Supreme Court candidates from November 2, 2003 to February 11, 2004. Political Action Committees sponsored by law firms contributed the \$72,500. Three of the law firm PACS are personal injury practices. All other PACs combined contributed \$118,750, 1.6 times more money than law firms. Insurance PACs contributed \$48, 250.



Ohio Republican Party committees and candidates contributed \$85,519.20 to candidates running for the Ohio Supreme Court from November 2, 2003 to February 11, 2004. Ohio Democratic Party committees and candidates contributed \$2,705.72.

### Contributions from political party and candidate committees 11/2/03-2/11/04

Candidate	Total Contributions
Connally-D	N/A
Moyer-R	\$14,470.11
Fuerst-D	\$625.00
Gwin-D	\$1,650.00
Lanzinger-R	\$37,446.24
Pfeifer-R	\$0.00
O'Neill-D	\$430.72
O'Donnell-R	\$33,603.45
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$88,225.52</b>



**Top Individual Contributors to Candidates for the Ohio Supreme Court  
November 2, 2003-February 11, 2004**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Employer</b>	<b>Type of Business</b>	<b>Total</b>
1.	J. Gilbert Reese	Reese Pyle Drake & Meyer	Law Firm	\$7,500
	Edward Lozic	Stren, Inc.	Business Services	\$7,500
2.	Robert Duvin	Duvin Cahn & Hutton	Law Firm	\$5,000
3.	H.C. Buck Niehoff	Peck Shaffer & Williams	Law Firm	\$3,000
4.	Norman A. Fuerst	Retired/ Visiting Judge	Government	\$2,775
	Mary P. Fuerst	Retired	Retired	\$2,775
5.	Steven P. Okey	Okey Law Firm	Law Firm	\$2,550

**Average Individual Contributions  
11/2/03-2/19/04**

The average individual contribution size for Ohio Supreme Court candidates who filed reports was \$372.79.

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Average Contribution</b>
C. Ellen Connally-D	N/A
Thomas J. Moyer-R	\$327.85
Nancy A. Fuerst-D	\$237.75
W. Scott Gwin-D	\$799.14
Judith Lanzinger-R	\$405.10
Paul E. Pfeifer-R	N/A
William O'Neill-D	\$10.00
Terrence O'Donnell-R	\$418.97

*Connally did not file a contribution report.  
Pfeifer did not receive any contributions from individuals.*

The candidates for justice received a total of 1,175 contributions from individuals November 2, 2003-February 11, 2004, equaling \$438,024 from individual givers.

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Number of contributions equal or less than \$200</b>	<b>Total \$ from smaller contributors</b>		<b>Number of contributions more than \$200</b>	<b>Total \$ from larger contributors</b>
C. Ellen Connally-D	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A
Thomas J. Moyer-R	213	\$22,080		192	\$110,700
Nancy A. Fuerst-D	244	\$18,455		74	\$57,150
W. Scott Gwin-D	35	\$4,775		88	\$93,519
Judith Lanzinger-R	31	\$3,035		113	\$55,300
Paul E. Pfeifer-R	0	\$0		0	\$0
William O'Neill-D	11	\$110		0	\$0
Terrence O'Donnell-R	49	\$5,150		125	\$67,750
<b>Total</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>\$53,605</b>		<b>592</b>	<b>\$384,419</b>

### **Contributions from Outside Ohio 11/2/03-2/11/04**

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Total Contributions</b>
Connally-D	N/A
Moyer-R	\$8,500
Fuerst-D	\$1,830
Gwin-D	\$500
Lanzinger-R	\$8,100
Pfeifer-R	\$0
O'Neill-D	\$0
O'Donnell-R	\$7,850
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$26,780</b>

Most of the contributions to candidates for Ohio Supreme Court from this time period were from residents of Ohio. Less than 3% of the money came from out-of-state contributors, totaling \$26,780. Of the 43 contributions from outside Ohio, 15 were from Political Action Committees (PACs) and all of these contributions were given to Republicans. These PACs were primarily from the insurance and financial industries.

Almost seven percent (6.8%) of the individual contributors during this period are not in the workforce. There were 80 contributions from homemakers and retired individuals, totaling \$26,780.

<b>Candidates</b>	<b>Number of Homemakers</b>	<b>Contributions from Homemakers</b>	<b>Number of Retired</b>	<b>Contributions from Retired</b>
Connally-D	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Moyer-R	6	\$4,000	27	\$5,170
Fuerst-D	4	\$500	17	\$4,850
Gwin-D	4	\$6,000	9	\$1,300
Lanzinger-R	0	\$0	8	\$3,110
Pfeifer-R	0	\$0	0	\$0
O'Neill-D	0	\$0	0	\$0
O'Donnell-R	1	\$500	4	\$1,350
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>\$11,000</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>\$15,780</b>
<b>November 2, 2003-February 11, 2004</b>				

**Top 25 Organizational Contributors to Candidates  
for Ohio Supreme Court  
November 2, 2003- February 11, 2004**

<b>Organizational Contributors</b>	<b>Amount</b>
1. Janik & Dorman	\$20,050
2. Okey Law Firm	\$18,050
3. Bricker & Eckler	\$17,550
4. Ohio State Medical Association	\$16,600
5. Nurenberg Plevin Heller & McCarthy Co., LPA	\$15,750
6. Allen Schulman & Associates	\$13,000
7. Murray & Murray Co., LPA	\$12,219
8. Procter & Gamble	\$11,600
9. Spangenberg Shibley & Liber	\$11,250
10. Clark Perdue Roberts & Scott Co., LPA	\$11,000
11. Baker & Hostetler	\$9,450
12. Vorys Sater Seymour & Pease	\$9,100
13. Friedman Domiano & Smith Co., LPA	\$8,325
14. Weisman Kennedy & Berris Co., LPA	\$8,000
Kelley & Ferraro, LLP	\$8,000
15. Perantinides & Nolan	\$7,750
16. Nationwide Insurance	\$7,600
17. Charles Kampinski Co., LPA	\$7,510
18. Reese Pyle Drake & Meyer	\$7,500
RMS Management Company	\$7,500
Stren, Inc.	\$7,500
19. Duvin Cahn & Hutton	\$7,000
Grange Mutual Casualty Company	\$7,000
20. Reminger & Reminger	\$6,500
21. Ohio Hospital Association	\$6,250
22. Scanlon & Gearing Co., LPA	\$6,100
23. CAN Financial Corporation	\$6,000
Hartford Insurance	\$6,000
Jeffries Kube Forrest & Monteleone Co., LPA	\$6,000
Travelers Property Casualty Corp.	\$6,000
24. Keating Muething & Klekamp	\$5,925
Taft Stettinius & Hollister	\$5,925
25. Jones Day Reavis & Pogue	\$5,800

**Organizational contributions include PACs and employees**

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**Thomas J. Moyer**  
**Candidate for Chief Justice of Ohio Supreme Court**  
**Republican Incumbent**  
**Total Raised November 2, 2003- February 11, 2004--\$239,750**

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**Contributions from Republican Party Committees—\$8,470**

Individual Contributions Equal to or Less Than \$200—9%

Individual Contributions More Than \$200—46%

Total Political Party & Candidate Committees and Leadership PACs—6%

Political Action Committee (PAC) Contributions—29%

Unincorporated Givers—10%

Top Organizational Contributors to Thomas J. Moyer	
1. Janik & Dorman, LLP	\$19,000
2. RMS Management Company	\$7,500
3. Bricker & Eckler	\$5,750
4. Ohio State Medical Association	\$5,600
5. Reminger & Reminger	\$5,500
Vorys Sater Seymour & Pease	\$5,500
6. Craig J. Wright Attorney at Law	\$4,000
Freund Freeze & Arnold	\$4,000
7. Duvin Cahn & Hutton	\$3,500
8. Thompson Hine & Flory	\$3,350
9. Baker & Hostetler	\$3,250
10. Grange Mutual Casualty Company	\$3,000
<b>Contributions include contributions from PACs, employees and other contributions by organization. Totals include both monetary and in-kind contributions.</b>	

Political Party and Candidate Committee Contributors	
1. Friends of Governor Taft	\$5,500
2. Hamilton County Republican Party	\$5,000
3. Ohio Republican Party	\$3,470
4. Allen for Prosecutor	\$500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,470</b>

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**Nancy A. Fuerst**  
**Candidate for Justice of Ohio Supreme Court**  
**Democrat/ Open Seat**  
**Total Raised November 2, 2003- February 11, 2004--\$134,155**

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**Contributions from Democratic Party Committees—\$100**

Individual Contributions Equal to or Less Than \$200—14%

Individual Contributions More Than \$200—43%

Total Political Party & Candidate Committees and Leadership PACs—>1%

Political Action Committee (PAC) Contributions—4%

Unincorporated Givers—38%

Labor Unions—1%

Top Organizational Contributors to Nancy A. Fuerst	
1. <i>Nurenberg Plevin Heller &amp; McCarthy Co., LPA</i>	\$12,750
2. <i>Friedman Domiano &amp; Smith Co., LPA</i>	\$8,325
3. Kelley & Ferraro, LLP	\$8,000
4. Charles Kampinski Co., LPA	\$7,500
5. Timothy A. Shimko, LPA	\$5,500
6. <i>Spangenberg Shibley &amp; Liber</i>	\$5,250
7. Weisman Kennedy & Berris Co., LPA	\$4,000
8. <i>Scanlon &amp; Gearing Co., LPA</i>	\$3,100
9. <i>Jeffries Kube Forrest &amp; Monteleone Co., LPA</i>	\$3,000
10. Mansour Gavin Gerlack & Manos	\$2,800
<b>Contributions include contributions from PACs, employees and other contributions by organization. Totals include both monetary and in-kind contributions.</b>	
<i>Personal injury attorneys are in italics.</i>	

Political Party and Candidate Committee Contributors	
1. Dimora's Booster Committee	\$275
2. Fuerst Election Committee	\$250
3. Fairfield County Democratic Executive Committee	\$100
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$625</b>

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**W. Scott Gwin****Candidate for Justice of Ohio Supreme Court****Democrat/ Open Seat****Total Raised November 2, 2003- February 11, 2004--\$161,244**

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**Contributions from Democratic Party Committees—\$0**

Individual Contributions Equal to or Less Than \$200—3%

Individual Contributions More Than \$200—58%

Total Political Party &amp; Candidate Committees and Leadership PACs—1%

Political Action Committee (PAC) Contributions—1%

Unincorporated Givers—36%

Labor Unions—1%

Top Organizational Contributors to W. Scott Gwin	
1. <i>Okey Law Firm</i>	\$18,000
2. <i>Allen Schulman &amp; Associates</i>	\$13,000
3. Murray & Murray Co., LPA	\$12,219
4. Clark Perdue Roberts Scott Co., LPA	\$10,000
5. <i>Perantinides &amp; Nolan</i>	\$7,750
6. <i>Graham McClelland Ransbottom</i>	\$5,500
<i>Tzangas Plankas Manos &amp; Recupero</i>	\$5,500
<i>William Jilek Lafferty Gallagher &amp; Scott</i>	\$5,500
7. Lancione & Lancione	\$5,000
<i>Spangenberg Shibley &amp; Liber</i>	\$5,000
8. Weisman Kennedy & Berry Co., LPA	\$4,000
9. <i>Jeffries Kube Forrest &amp; Monteleone Co., LPA</i>	\$3,000
<i>Nurenberg Plevin Heller &amp; McCarthy Co., LPA</i>	\$3,000
<i>Scanlon &amp; Gearing Co., LPA</i>	\$3,000
10. <i>Buckingham Doolittle &amp; Burroughs</i>	\$2,950
<b>Contributions include contributions from PACs, employees and other contributions by organization. Totals include both monetary and in-kind contributions.</b>	
<i>Personal injury attorneys are in italics.</i>	

Political Party and Candidate Committee Contributors	
1. Friends of Pat O'Malley	\$1,000
2. Re-elect Judge Reinbold	\$250
3. Keep Joe Martucio Law Director Committee	\$200
Citizens for Ford	\$200
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,650</b>

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**Judith Lanzinger****Candidate for Justice of Ohio Supreme Court****Republican Open Seat****Total Raised November 2, 2003- February 11, 2004--\$153,781**

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**Contributions from Republican Party Committees— \$31,696**

Individual Contributions Equal to or Less Than \$200—2%

Individual Contributions More Than \$200—36%

Total Political Party &amp; Candidate Committees and Leadership PACs—24%

Political Action Committee (PAC) Contributions—36%

Unincorporated Givers—1%

Labor Unions—1%

Top Organizational Contributors to Judith Lanzinger	
1. Bricker & Eckler	\$5,750
2. Ohio State Medical Association	\$5,500
Procter & Gamble	\$5,500
3. Ohio Hospital Association	\$2,750
4. Invacare Corporation	\$2,500
Nationwide Insurance	\$2,500
Peck Shaffer & Williams	\$2,500
Reese Pyle Drake & Meyer	\$2,500
<i>Shindler Neff Holmes &amp; Schlageter Co., LLP</i>	\$2,500
Stren, Inc.	\$2,500
Vintage Coins & Cards	\$2,500
5. Baker & Hostetler	\$2,250
6. CNA Financial Corporation	\$2,000
Grange Mutual Casualty	\$2,000
Hartford Insurance	\$2,000
Travelers Property Casualty Corporation	\$2,000
Vorys Sater Seymour & Pease	\$2,000
Wholesale Beer & Wine Association of Ohio	\$2,000
7. Keating Muething & Klekamp	\$1,975
<b>Contributions include contributions from PACs, employees and other contributions by organization. Totals include both monetary and in-kind contributions. <i>Personal injury attorneys are in italics.</i></b>	

Top Political Party and Candidate Committee Contributors	
1. Ohio Republican Party	\$31,696
2. Friends of Governor Taft	\$5,500
3. Allen for Prosecutor	\$250
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$37,446</b>



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**Paul Pfeifer**

**Candidate for Justice of Ohio Supreme Court**

**Republican Incumbent**

**Total Raised November 2, 2003- February 11, 2004--\$5,000**

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**Contributions from Republican Party Committees—\$0**

Individual Contributions Equal to or Less Than \$200—0%

Individual Contributions More Than \$200—0%

Total Political Party & Candidate Committees and Leadership PACs-0%

Political Action Committee (PAC) Contributions—0%

Unincorporated Givers—100%

Organizational Contributors to Paul Pfeifer	
1. <i>Palmer Volkema &amp; Thomas</i>	\$5,000
<b>Contributions include contributions from PACs, employees and other contributions by organization. Totals include both monetary and in-kind contributions.</b>	
<i>Personal injury attorneys are in italics.</i>	

Paul Pfeifer received only one contribution during this time period, \$5,000 from the law firm of Palmer Volkema & Thomas, a personal injury law firm.

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**William O'Neill****Candidate for Justice of Ohio Supreme Court****Democratic Challenger****Total Raised November 2, 2003- February 11, 2004--\$3,041**

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**Contributions from Democratic Party Committees—\$80**

Individual Contributions Equal to or Less Than \$200—4%

Individual Contributions More Than \$200—0%

Total Political Party &amp; Candidate Committees and Leadership PACs—14%

Political Action Committee (PAC) Contributions—0%

Unincorporated Givers—33%

Labor Unions—49%

Top Organizational Contributors to William O'Neill	
1. Laborers International Union of North America	\$1,000
<i>Spangenberg Shibley &amp; Liber</i>	\$1,000
2. Pipefitters Local Union No. 120	\$500
3. Brian G. Ruschel Attorney at Law	\$10
Catholic Diocese	\$10
Charles Kampinski Co., LPA	\$10
Daniel R. Corcoran, Esq.	\$10
<i>Kampinski &amp; Mellino</i>	\$10
<i>Landskroner Greico Ltd.</i>	\$10
Mark L. Hoffman Attorney at Law	\$10
Richard A. Vadnal Co., LPA	\$10
State of Ohio	\$10
Ulmer & Berne	\$10
<b>Contributions include contributions from PACs, employees and other contributions by organization. Totals include both monetary and in-kind contributions.</b>	
<i>Personal injury attorneys are in italics.</i>	

Top Political Party and Candidate Committee Contributors	
1. Michael Drain for Judge Committee	\$351
2. Ohio Democratic Party	\$80
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$431</b>

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**Terrence O'Donnell****Candidate for Justice of Ohio Supreme Court****Republican Appointed Incumbent****Total Raised November 2, 2003- February 11, 2004--\$170,678**

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**Contributions from Republican Party Committees—\$27,853**

Individual Contributions Equal to or Less Than \$200—3%

Individual Contributions More Than \$200—40%

Total Political Party &amp; Candidate Committees and Leadership PACs—20%

Political Action Committee (PAC) Contributions—35%

Unincorporated Givers—2%

Top Organizational Contributors to Terrence O'Donnell	
1. Bricker & Eckler	\$6,050
2. Ohio State Medical Association	\$5,500
Procter & Gamble	\$5,500
3. Baker & Hostetler	\$3,750
4. Duvin Cahn & Hutton	\$3,500
5. Cintas	\$3,000
6. Ohio Hospital Association	\$2,750
7. Coal Resources, Inc.	\$2,500
Manco Corp.	\$2,500
Nationwide Insurance	\$2,500
Ohio Casualty Insurance Group	\$2,500
Reese Pyle Drake Meyer	\$2,500
Ricart Ford	\$2,500
Stren, Inc.	\$2,500
Summer Hill, Inc.	\$2,500
8. Keating Muething & Klekamp	\$2,125
<b>Contributions include contributions from PACs, employees and other contributions by organization. Totals include both monetary and in-kind contributions.</b>	

Top Political Party and Candidate Committee Contributors	
1. Ohio Republican Party	\$22,853
2. Friends of Governor Taft	\$5,500
3. Hamilton County Republican Party	\$5,000
4. Allen for Prosecutor	\$250
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$33,603</b>

O h i o S u p r e m e C o u r t  
V o t e r G u i d e s c a n b e  
t h e f i r s t s t e p i n  
e n g a g i n g t h e p u b l i c  
a n d e n c o u r a g i n g  
t h e m t o l o o k f o r  
m o r e i n f o r m a t i o n  
a b o u t j u d i c i a l  
c a n d i d a t e s . V o t e r  
g u i d e s c a n h e l p  
c o u n t e r s p e c i a l  
i n t e r e s t s b y  
p r o v i d i n g v o t e r s  
m o r e i n f o r m a t i o n  
t h a n t h e y w o u l d  
r e c e i v e f r o m p a i d  
a d s . D u r i n g 2 0 0 4 , a  
s p e c i a l v o t e r g u i d e  
c o m m i t t e e a p p o i n t e d  
b y t h e S e c r e t a r y o f  
S t a t e s h o u l d c o m p i l e

a n d d i s s e m i n a t e t h e  
v o t e r g u i d e . To gain wide distribution of  
these guides, the committee may want to build a broad network of voluntary organizations  
working with print and broadcast media in Ohio to reach as many citizens as possible.

T h e O h i o S e c r e t a r y  
o f S t a t e ' s w e b s i t e  
o f c a m p a i g n f i n a n c e  
i n f o r m a t i o n s h o u l d  
b e i n c l u d e d i n a n y  
v o t e r g u i d e s o t h a t  
v o t e r s k n o w w h e r e  
t h e y c a n f i n d  
i n f o r m a t i o n a b o u t  
c o n t r i b u t o r s t o t h e  
c a n d i d a t e s .

I d e n t i f y i n g t h e  
a t t o r n e y s w h o a p p e a r  
b e f o r e a j u d g e t o  
w h o m t h e y  
c o n t r i b u t e d w o u l d  
g i v e O h i o a n s a  
c l e a r e r p i c t u r e o f  
c a m p a i g n f i n a n c e a n d  
j u d i c i a l e l e c t i o n s .  
T h i s r e f o r m c o u l d b e  
a c c o m p l i s h e d b y

r u l e s e s t a b l i s h e d b y  
t h e C o u r t .  
D i s c l o s u r e c o u l d  
a l s o b e i m p r o v e d b y  
e l i m i n a t i n g " b e s t  
e f f o r t " f o r j u d i c i a l  
c a n d i d a t e s .

**Candidates for Ohio Supreme Court should be required to identify the employer of individuals of contributions over \$100. rather than simply their occupation. Contributions that are unidentified should be considered "frozen" until properly identified. If the candidate committees are unable to identify, these funds should be returned to the contributor or given to the Client Security Fund. The Client Security Fund was established by the Court and compensates clients who suffer financial loss as a result of attorney misconduct.**

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**Terrence O'Donnell**

**Candidate for Justice of Ohio Supreme Court**

**Republican Appointed Incumbent**

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## **Recommendations**

**Ohio Supreme Court Voter Guides can be the first step in engaging the public and encouraging them to look for more information about judicial candidates. Voter guides can help counter special interests by providing voters more information than they would receive from paid ads. During 2004, a special voter guide committee appointed by the Secretary of State should compile and disseminate the voter guide. To gain wide distribution of these guides, the committee may want to build a broad network of voluntary organizations working with print and broadcast media in Ohio to reach as many citizens as possible. The Ohio Secretary of State's website of campaign finance information should be included in any voter guide so that voters know where they can find information about contributors to the candidates.**

**Identifying the attorneys who appear before a judge to whom they contributed would give Ohioans a clearer picture of campaign finance and judicial elections. This reform could be accomplished by rules established by the Court. Disclosure could also be improved by eliminating "best effort" for judicial candidates. Candidates for Ohio Supreme Court should be required to identify the employer of individuals of contributions over \$100. rather than simply their occupation. Contributions that are unidentified should be considered "frozen" until properly identified. If the candidate**

**committees are unable to identify, these funds should be returned to the contributor or given to the Client Security Fund. The Client Security Fund was established by the Court and compensates clients who suffer financial loss as a result of attorney misconduct. This is a change that would need to be accomplished legislatively.**

**Public financing of judicial campaigns would remove judges from serious fundraising and eliminates the perception that justice may be for sale. The First Steps Working Group on Public Financing continues to review reform options. North Carolina will become the first state in the nation to offer full public financing for its top courts this year and this should give other states, including Ohio, more information about the benefits and problems of implementing a judicial public financing system.**

## **Methodology**

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The Ohio Citizen Action Education Fund analyzed contributions from November 2, 2003 through February 11, 2004 to candidates for Ohio Supreme Court Justice. Totals include contributions from political action committees (PACs), labor unions, unincorporated businesses, organizations and individuals. Unincorporated businesses are usually “mom and pop shops” but many law firms are limited liability companies. These unincorporated businesses are not required to have PACs to make their contributions.

The database is based on the filings of judicial candidates for Ohio Supreme Court, available in computerized form from the Ohio Secretary of State. These filings were submitted electronically by the candidate committees to the Secretary of State and are available on-line at [www.state.oh.us/sos/](http://www.state.oh.us/sos/).

***To identify the employers or the organizational affiliations of contributors, the Ohio Citizen Action Education Fund obtained the following databases:***

- A database from the Ohio Supreme Court of attorneys in Ohio,
- A list of lobbyists in Ohio from the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee,
- The *InfoUSA PowerFinder*, a national phone directory on CD,
- The 1999-2000 *Run for the Money* database, an analysis of 1999-2000 contributors and the 2002 *Contributions to Candidates for the Ohio Supreme Court*, an analysis of 2002 contributions to Supreme Court candidates. Both of these databases were based on the



Secretary of State's database with further analysis by the Ohio Citizen Action Education Fund.

- A list of Ohio Political Action Committees from the Ohio Secretary of State website to identify PAC sponsors.

There are many different kinds of attorneys. To identify personal injury attorneys, the Ohio Citizen Action Education Fund used a database of law firms that advertise in the *Yellow Pages* as personal injury attorneys. This captured those who publicly identified themselves as personal injury attorneys. However, this study likely underestimates contributions that can be attributed to personal injury attorneys and certainly does not include all plaintiff trial attorneys.

***For each candidate the total amount in this database includes the following:***

- Contributions received
- Contributions received at a social or fundraising event
- In-kind contributions received
- Contributions the candidate gave to his or her own campaign

The profiles do not include Statement of Other Income, which include interest, refunds, returns, and other non-contribution income.

## **Acknowledgements**

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The Ohio Citizen Action Education Fund thanks the Joyce Foundation and the George Gund Foundation for their encouragement and funding to analyze campaign contributions to Ohio statewide and legislative candidates, legislative caucus committees and political party committees. The Education Fund thanks Larry Hansen, vice-president of the Joyce Foundation, for his guidance.

The Ohio Citizen Action Education Fund thanks Curt Mayhew of the office of the Ohio Secretary of State for his advice and information. The Ohio Secretary of State made the filings available in a timely fashion on their File Transfer Protocol (FTP) site.

Thank you to Angela Oster for her graphic design and Peg Rosenfield for her amazing editing skills.

Catherine Turcer and Brandi Whetstone are the co-authors of this report. Turcer is the campaign reform director and Whetstone is the research database manager for the Ohio Citizen Action Education Fund. The Ohio Citizen Action Education Fund is the non-profit, research and education affiliate of Ohio Citizen Action. The Education Fund produces studies on money and politics and on toxins in the environment.

*Public financing of judicial campaigns would remove judges from serious fundraising and eliminates the perception that justice may be for sale. **The First Steps Working Group on Public Financing continues to review reform options. North Carolina will become the first state in the nation to offer full public financing for its top courts this year and this should give other states, including Ohio, more information about the benefits and problems of implementing a judicial public financing system.***