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## BUSINESS SECTION

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### CALENDAR

#### Saturdays

##### BABYSITTER'S TRAINING

The American Red Cross will offer "Babysitter's Training" classes in Akron, Hudson, and Barberton this winter. The cost for the class is \$50.00 and includes a copy of the American Red Cross Babysitter's Training manual. Participants should bring a bagged lunch. Recommended for ages 11 to 15 years, the course provides youth who are planning to baby-sit with the knowledge and skills necessary to safely and responsibly give care for children and infants. This training helps participants to develop leadership skills; learn how to develop a babysitting business, keep themselves and others safe, help children behave, and learn about basic child care and basic first aid. The course offers helpful care-giving and responsibility skills not only to babysitters, but also to those older children in single-parent families who are often left to care for younger siblings while the parent is at work. Classes will be held as follows: **Akron:** Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Feb. 12 and March 12

**Location:** American Red Cross, Summit County Office, 501 West Market Street, Akron, OH 44303.

**Hudson:** Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Feb. 5 and March 5.

**Location:** Hudson Community Chapel, 750 West Streetsboro St., Hudson, OH 44236. For more information or to register for Akron or Hudson, call 330-535-2447 or visit [www.summit-county.redcross.org](http://www.summit-county.redcross.org).

**Barberton:** Saturday, Feb. 26, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**Location:** American Red Cross Barberton Chapter, 564 West Tuscarawas Ave., Suite 104, Barberton, OH 44203

#### Tuesday, February 1, 6 - 10 p.m.

##### 9TH ANNUAL SPORTS DINNER

Shaw JCC of Akron  
750 White Pond Dr., Akron  
Each year, this event presents a unique opportunity to meet a National Sports Figure. This year's event will feature Byron Scott, head coach of the Cleveland Cavaliers, as the Guest Speaker. In addition, a Prime Rib Dinner will be served and there will be a Silent Auction of Sports Memorabilia. Tickets may be purchased as an individual or corporation. Tickets are \$185. Tables of 10 may also be purchased. Sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information about this event, please contact Megan Simone at 330-835-0036 or e-mail at [megan\\_simone@shawjcc.org](mailto:megan_simone@shawjcc.org). To purchase tickets, a table, or for sponsorship information, please contact Todd Rockoff at 330-835-0021 or e-mail [todd\\_rockoff@shawjcc.org](mailto:todd_rockoff@shawjcc.org).

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### CONTACT

Ohio Legal News.com  
Akron Legal News  
(330) 376-0917  
60 S. Summit St.  
Akron, OH 44308

## Tax lawyer devoted last years to program for brain injuries

ASHLEY HEENEY  
Legal News Reporter

Joseph F. Cook, Jr., an accountant, lawyer and more recently a leader in forming a community agency for people with traumatic brain injury, died Jan. 20 at age 54.

Services were Jan. 23 and 24.

In 2002, Cook was on his way to a Leadership Akron meeting on a winter's day with slick conditions and got into an accident, according to Andrew Duff, a partner at Amer Cunningham where Cook was also partner.

"Following that he was wheel chair bound with significant injuries that he never recovered from," Duff said. He remembered first meeting Cook as a law clerk fresh out of The University of Akron School of Law in the early 1980s.

After the accident, Cook suffered from traumatic brain injury, which can result in a number of cognitive, emotional, behavioral and physical problems, according to Ballinger TBI Clubhouse, now called Community Clubhouse for Brain Injury, which now has an upward of 35 members, and growing.

Its director, Betty Bacalu, said Cook was a founding member of the clubhouse and he used to go there with his wife Karen for support meetings that draw 30 to 70 people monthly.

"He was an active member as



Joseph F. Cook, Jr. with his youngest daughter, Kristin, at Community Clubhouse for Brain Injury, December, 2010. (Photo courtesy of Betty Bacalu.)

a board member and active member of the clubhouse because of his brain injury," Bacalu said.

"We put out a flier asking anyone interested in developing a clubhouse," and he responded, she said. "We discussed having it one for a year and got it off the ground in 2004. In April of 2008, we merged with Community Health Center. We're no

longer a little agency, but now a program of the Community Health Center."

Memorials may be made in his name to Community Clubhouse, 2799 Copley Road, Akron, Ohio 44321.

"He was also a CPA (certified public accountant)," Bacalu said of Cook. "He helped us in the beginning because he still had the ability to do that."

Duff said Cook went on disability and became inactive as a lawyer since 2002.

"He was good friend of mine. He joined our firm (Amer Cunningham) because his father, Joseph F. Cook, Sr. (now deceased) was an attorney here."

"He practiced tax law and estate planning," Duff said of the Cook, Jr.

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## Black lawmakers urge Gov. to hire minorities

ANN SANNER  
Associated Press

COLUMBUS (AP) — Black state lawmakers on Thursday demanded Ohio Gov. John Kasich appoint minorities to his Cabinet — even if it means booting out some of his current picks.

The appointees to the new Republican governor's Cabinet so far are all white, a first for the state since 1962.

Kasich has said he's focused on putting together "the best possible team" without regard for race, gender, ethnicity or sexual orientation.

On Thursday, the president of the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus implored Kasich to make better strides to diversify his Cabinet.

"Feel the need to, you know, get rid of them if you need to because we want our fair share of seats at the table," said Rep. Sandra Williams, a Cleveland

Democrat.

The group also set up an e-mail address, [iamqualifiedOhio\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:iamqualifiedOhio(at)gmail.com), for minority candidates to send in their resumes.

"We will take those resumes — walk those resumes over to our governor to let him know that there are qualified people of color in this state, and we are demanding employment," Williams said at a news conference with other caucus members. The caucus also called on the GOP-led Senate to deny the confirmation of Kasich's Cabinet members until he picks minority candidates for the positions. A message seeking comment was left with the Senate Republican leadership office.

Williams said the caucus has requested a meeting with the governor to discuss inclusion and their legislative agenda. They are waiting to hear back, she said. Kasich has previously met with some caucus mem-

bers, and they conceded Thursday that Kasich talked to two minorities from Ohio who turned him down.

Rob Nichols, a spokesman for the governor, confirmed that two African-Americans turned down offers from Kasich for two separate Cabinet posts. Nichols declined to give their names.

"The governor continues to look for qualified people to serve Ohio in his administration, without regard to race. He encourages all Ohioans to apply and welcomes suggestions for qualified applicants," Nichols said.

"Equally important, he's looking for candidates that share his deep commitment to reducing government spending, reforming programs and reducing taxes," Nichols said.

State Sen. Charleta Tavares, a Columbus Democrat, said having minorities in the Cabinet is less about politics and more about bringing different view-

points to important decisions.

"Those of us that come out of racial, ethnic and cultural communities, bring other perspectives to the table," Tavares said. "That's what we want the governor to understand. He doesn't walk in our shoes. He hasn't gone through the struggles that many of us have gone through."

Kasich's interim director of job and family services, Michael Colbert, is black. Because he's temporary, though, Colbert is not a permanent Cabinet member.

Kasich could yet make Colbert the social welfare agency's full-fledged director. He also has not yet named a lottery director or head of the Emergency Medicaid Management Administration, an agency the previous Gov. Ted Strickland created by executive order whose fate under Kasich is not known. He will also eventually be able to replace Chancellor Eric Fingerhut.



## In-Depth Analyses Straightforward Reports

Ray Dunkle, ASA, CPA, ABV, CVA, CFE, CFF  
[Raymond.Dunkle@bcgcompany.com](mailto:Raymond.Dunkle@bcgcompany.com)  
(330) 864-6661



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