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NOTES

Treadmill to Confusion — Ohio's Guest Statute

"We know not what we do when we speak words" — Shelly, *Rosalind and Helen*, *Line 1108*.

Cardozo once stated that one of the greatest causes for uncertainty in the law was the attempted distinction between cases where the facts presented no distinction in legal principles applicable.¹ The validity of the eminent jurist's assertion is borne out by an analysis of automobile guest law today. An examination of the various guest cases, so called, reveals a hodge-podge of anomalies, contradictions and misnomers. One Ohio judge voiced the sentiments of many when he remarked:

It is a day devoutly to be wished for when the courts of last resort will give us definitions which are understandable to the ordinary mind.²

This article will trace the background of Ohio's Guest Statute,³ survey the leading decisions, and offer suggestions in an attempt to clarify

¹ CARDOZO, *THE GROWTH OF LAW* 3 (1924)

² *Lockshin v. Greenberg*, 25 Ohio L. Abs. 284, 287 (Ct. App. 1937).

³ OHIO REV. CODE § 4515.02.