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DBA Judicial Candidate Survey Responses

The DBA does not endorse any judicial candidate; our role is to provide impartial, non-partisan information about the judicial candidates in any given election year. All results from the Judicial Candidate Survey are available online for public consumption.

2022 Contested Races: Responses

- **Judge of the Court of Common Pleas (1) UTE Term begins 1/4/2025**
 - Kim Melnick
 - Tony Schoen
- **Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, (1) UTE Term begins 7/1/2025**
 - Bob Hanseman
 - Angelina Jackson
- **Judge of the Court of Common Pleas - Juvenile Division, Term begins 1/1/2023**
 - Steve Abshire
 - Julie Bruns



Name: Kim Melnick

**Candidate For: Judge of the Court of Common Pleas -
General Division**

**Current Employer: Common Pleas Court of Montgomery
County - General Division**

1. Please detail your legal biography using the following format: 1000 character limit Undergraduate Education: Legal Education: Graduate Education: Legal/Courtroom Experience:

I graduated from Wright State University in 1990, with a B.S. in Marketing. I then obtained my law degree in 1993 from the University of Dayton School of Law.

I have spent 26 years as a criminal prosecutor; 22 of these years were in the Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office. I have supervised the Grand Jury/Intake Division, the Adult Protection Unit, and Trial Teams. I was a member of the Violent Crimes Bureau, prosecuting only homicide cases. My trial experience includes all types of criminal cases from complex financial crimes to Aggravated Murder cases. Early in my career, I also spent time in private practice in the fields of criminal defense, domestic relations, and probate before returning to criminal prosecution. I have tried nearly 200 cases in my 29 years of practice.

I was appointed to the Common Pleas Court Bench in March 2022 and have been serving Montgomery County in this capacity since that time.

2. Please explain why you believe you are qualified for the judicial position for which you are seeking election. 1000 character limit

As a trial judge, my extensive trial experience is important. I understand the dynamics that are involved with motion hearings, jury trials, and bench trials. I have an in-depth knowledge of the Rules of Evidence and Procedure and understand the importance of the position that I currently hold.

My experience allows me to understand the challenges that attorneys face in trial preparation and case management. I am reasonable in dealing with the obstacles that arise, without inhibiting the parties' ability to "try their cases". My decisions are firm and decisive. When unique issues arise, I listen to all arguments and make decisions impartially in accordance with the law.

While being a judge garners a certain amount of respect based on the position alone, I understand that genuine respect must be earned. I will continue to strive to earn that respect from the members of the bench, the bar, and the public every day.

3. What experiences in your life or personal attributes make you believe that your courtroom would be a place where everyone receives justice, regardless of race, socio-economic status, gender, etc.? 1000 character limit

As a prosecutor, I did my best to make fair decisions on charges, to provide transparent discovery, and to come to reasonable resolutions when possible. The cases that I handled had victims, witnesses, and defendants from all races, genders, gender identities, and socio-economic backgrounds. I fought for justice in all cases based on facts and evidence, not social circumstances.

In cases that went to trial, I advocated for victims, no matter who they were. However, I never lost sight of my role as a prosecutor. That role was to do what was right and follow the rules, the constitutions, and the law. I was an advocate for the people of Montgomery County, ALL of the people.

As a judge, I face many of these same responsibilities. I am no longer an advocate for a particular side of a case, but I am still an advocate for justice. I still follow the rules, the constitutions, and the law. I continue to take my role of serving ALL of the people of Montgomery County very seriously.

4. What will be the most significant challenge facing courts over the next ten years and what plans do you have to address that challenge? 1000 character limit

The COVID pandemic caused technology in the courtroom to leap forward. Due to the sudden need to keep the courts running and to comply with mandates regarding distancing and mask-wearing, the courts had to quickly secure remedies to allow cases to continue to move forward, albeit slowly. Many of these changes in technology have remained in effect since the pandemic has waned.

Even now, new rules have been purposed to allow hearings and civil proceedings to be conducted remotely. There will be a significant challenge in continuing to keep up with technology in the courts and ensuring that parties' rights are not violated or reduced to a level of nullity.

In order to manage these concerns, the bench and the bar must engage in full discussions regarding what ramifications these changes may have on the veracity of testimony and the rights of the parties involved in the disputes. Courts are here to preserve justice, in some circumstances technology may need to take a back seat.



Name: Tony Schoen

Candidate For: Montgomery County Common Pleas Court Judge

Current Employer: The Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office

1. Please detail your legal biography using the following format: 1000 character limit Undergraduate Education: Legal Education: Graduate Education: Legal/Courtroom Experience:

Undergraduate Education: Summa Cum Laude from Ohio University with a double major in Finance and Business Law and a minor in Philosophy. Recognized as the top Business Law graduate. Worked as an investment banker for Bank of America Securities between undergraduate and law school.

Legal Education: Graduated with honors for The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law.

Legal/Courtroom Experience: Faruki, Ireland, and Cox: Associate with emphasis on complex business litigation;

Private Practice: Focus on criminal defense, probate, contracts and guardian ad litem work;

Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office: Supervisor of Grand Jury Division;

Care House Attorney;

Trial Supervisor.

I currently supervise the Consumer Fraud Division. I have worked in the Common Pleas Court my entire career. I have tried felony cases of all levels. I am a member of the Federal Bar, the Dayton Bar Association, and previously acted as Chair of the Criminal Law Committee.

2. Please explain why you believe you are qualified for the judicial position for which you are seeking election. 1000 character limit

The Common Pleas Court handles all felony cases and any civil case seeking relief of greater than \$15,000. I am uniquely qualified for this position due to practicing in all areas that come before the Court. I am the only candidate who has defended a murder case, prosecuted a murder case, and done complex civil litigation. As such, I understand the stresses of all practitioners that appear before the Court. I understand the stresses of all parties that come before the Court. Further, I understand the law in all areas that come before the Court. I believe this makes me the best candidate for the position.

3. What experiences in your life or personal attributes make you believe that your courtroom would be a place where everyone receives justice, regardless of race, socio-economic status, gender, etc.? 1000 character limit

I grew up as one of five children in Montgomery County. My wife grew up as one of five children in Montgomery County. We have been married for twenty years and are raising two children. Our parents were always service-oriented. They instilled in us the value of giving back. My wife and I are active in our Parish, St. Albert the Great. I have served on Parish Council, the Athletic Board, and coach youth sports year-round. I have served the people of this County as a Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for the last eleven years.

Community involvement has provided me with an appreciation of the underlying problems that result in crime. I do not believe that politics should play a role in a common pleas courtroom. Rich, poor, black, white, democrats, and republicans all come through the Montgomery County Common Pleas Court. I believe my diverse legal background, paired with my community involvement, ensures that I will administer justice fairly to all who come before the Court.

4. What will be the most significant challenge facing courts over the next ten years and what plans do you have to address that challenge? 1000 character limit

I believe there are two significant challenges. The first is efficiency. How can the civil and criminal dockets be run to efficiently get results for the parties involved? I will run a court with an open-door policy. I want discussion with criminal and civil practitioners. I want to listen to suggestions on how to efficiently move their cases through the court process. I will strive to make thorough and accurate decisions on motions without delay.

The second challenge is to instill confidence in the public that the Court is fair. The judiciary is expected to make decisions absent bias. I refuse to push political notions which are inapplicable to the job I am seeking as part of my campaign. I am a qualified individual who is seeking to serve his community as a Judge. My family is here and I am raising my children here. The public should be confident that, if elected, I will make decisions in accordance with the law and with the betterment of the County in mind.



Name: Bob Hanseman

Candidate For: Judge of the Court of Common Pleas

**Current Employer: Montgomery County Court of
Common Pleas**

1. Please detail your legal biography using the following format: 1000 character limit Undergraduate Education: Legal Education: Graduate Education: Legal/Courtroom Experience:

B.A., The Ohio State University, B.A., Journalism and Political Science J.D., George Washington University Law School

Captain, United States Air Force, 1996-2001. Prosecuting Attorney at numerous criminal Court-Martial trials and Administrative Discharge Boards, as well as appearances before federal administrative tribunals such as the Merit Systems Protection Board.

Special Assistant US Attorney, Northern District of Texas, 1996-1998. Prosecuted crimes committed on federal land.

Associate Attorney, Sebaly Shillito + Dyer, 2001-2007. Litigated business disputes, including corporate dissolution, shareholder disputes, injunction hearings and Trademark / Trade Dress disputes.

Shareholder, Sebaly Shillito + Dyer, 2007-2022. Litigated complex civil litigation, with emphasis on creditor rights and government contractor claims.

I have always enjoyed the courtroom experience and while in private practice commonly appeared at trials, as well as handling mediations and arbitrations.

2. Please explain why you believe you are qualified for the judicial position for which you are seeking election. 1000 character limit

I am the incumbent in the race and it's an honor to serve the citizens of Montgomery County. I am qualified for this position with 26 years of legal experience. I currently hold the position after being screened and then appointed by the Governor. Judges tackle a wide variety of issues every day and the public should expect decisions that are well-considered but also timely. It's a bad situation when a judge makes poor decisions, but it's not much better when judges habitually rule in a tardy manner. While in private practice I often received calls from clients asking when the court would rule on a pending motion or inquiring when their case would finally get to trial. It was always distressing when months or even

years passed before a resolution. Plaintiffs are interested in obtaining justice and defendants are interested in having the cloud over their heads lifted. When I became a judge I resolved to move cases toward resolution in a timely, fair and thoughtful manner.

3. What experiences in your life or personal attributes make you believe that your courtroom would be a place where everyone receives justice, regardless of race, socio-economic status, gender, etc.? 1000 character limit

I grew up in a military family and the military has long been one of the most integrated sectors of our society; by the time I went to grade school, military schools had been integrated for decades. Later when I attended the Fairborn School system, it was also very diverse; I had friends from all types of backgrounds. I grew up in an environment where people were judged on their capabilities and skills, not their ethnic background. I experienced the same when I joined the military as an adult; people had the chance to shine no matter if they were male or female, rich or poor. Officers like Colin Powell come to mind; his family immigrated from Jamaica and he rose to become a four-star general. While I don't have the power to change society-at-large, at the very least I can run my courtroom that way. I believe in Martin Luther King's vision of a color-blind society, where people are judged on the content of their character, America has its flaws, but it's the greatest nation on Earth.

4. What will be the most significant challenge facing courts over the next ten years and what plans do you have to address that challenge? 1000 character limit

The courts are in a continual race to keep up with technology and today's juries expect us to use technology in the courtroom. For example, they want to see computer simulations of crime and medical issues. Some attorneys call this the "CSI Effect" but it's real and the courts need to take it into account. Another issue is that attention spans are shorter than ever and it's a challenge for judges to make sure that jurors are paying attention. I allow jurors to take notes during trials; Ohio's trial rules allow this option, but some judges are uncomfortable with it. However, I believe it helps jurors absorb information and also helps keep them alert. Finally, there is the attempted politicization of the courts; some would say the process is already well underway. However, that must be resisted because an independent judiciary is vital to our democracy. I will do my part, which is to judge every case that comes before me upon its own merits, free of outside influences.



Name: Angelina Jackson

Candidate For: Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas-General Division

Current Employer: Montgomery County Public Defender

1. Please detail your legal biography using the following format: 1000 character limit Undergraduate Education: Legal Education: Graduate Education: Legal/Courtroom Experience:

Undergraduate Education: B.A., Florida A&M University (1998)

Legal Education: J.D., University of Cincinnati College of Law (2004)

Legal Experience: I have been a practicing attorney for 18 years. I worked for the law firm of Dinsmore & Shohl, where I represented clients in a variety of civil matters, including medical malpractice, products liability, commercial warranty and contract disputes. I also served as Director of the Race & Justice Project at the Ohio Justice & Policy Center, where I litigated criminal appeals and civil rights cases and advocated for criminal justice reform. As an Adjunct Professor for the University of Cincinnati College of Law, I taught professionalism and practical skills to law students. Since 2015, I have been employed as an Assistant Montgomery County Public Defender, where I represent people facing criminal charges who cannot afford an attorney in the municipal, common pleas, and appellate courts of Montgomery County.

2. Please explain why you believe you are qualified for the judicial position for which you are seeking election. 1000 character limit

My experience handling civil, criminal and appellate matters has allowed me to develop a firm grasp on the substantive, procedural and evidentiary law that governs the cases heard by the common pleas court. Additionally, I have strong research, writing, and analytical skills, which is critical for issuing sound decisions. I have experience handling trials and pretrial hearings and motions, including those seeking dismissal, suppression, summary judgment, exclusion of evidence and/or witnesses, and resolution of discovery disputes.

In terms of my perspective, I am open-minded and pragmatic, I am not afraid to admit when I do not know something, and I am committed to reaching the right outcome. Finally, I seek this position out of a desire to serve. I want to do my part to protect the safety and well-being of our community, to increase our community's trust and confidence in the legal system, and to contribute to the development of sound jurisprudence.

3. What experiences in your life or personal attributes make you believe that your courtroom would be a place where everyone receives justice, regardless of race, socio-economic status, gender, etc.? 1000 character limit

I believe that my personal and professional experience will serve the needs of the Court and the community. I am a Dayton native, a Black woman, a mother, and an attorney that has worked with diverse client populations from corporations to individuals experiencing homelessness. Further, I strive to serve and understand the community in which I live. As a public defender, I work with individuals struggling with addiction, mental health symptoms, and poverty. I have provided pro bono services to victims of domestic violence through the Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Project. I have worked with community members and law enforcement to recommend policies designed to reduce use of force and protect both citizens and officers.

My work reflects my commitment to equity and to treating all people with dignity and respect. Lastly, I support data collection and analysis to ensure that our courts are operating with fairness, proportionality, and transparency.

4. What will be the most significant challenge facing courts over the next ten years and what plans do you have to address that challenge? 1000 character limit

One of the most significant challenges I believe the court will face over the next ten years is its role in addressing problems such as addiction, mental illness, poverty and other factors that contribute to criminal conduct. Currently, our local court is using specialized dockets certified by the Ohio Supreme Court to consider and address many of these issues. Moreover, the Ohio Legislature has made clear through enactment of statutes related to ILC, TCAP and other felony sentencing considerations that our courts have an obligation to use alternatives to incarceration for low-level, non-violent offenders.

Our society has increasingly recognized that incarceration is very expensive, and I believe that we have an obligation to use our financial resources in the most efficient and effective way to achieve community safety and rehabilitation. If elected, I will look for opportunities to improve upon and expand the use of specialized dockets and alternatives to incarceration.



Name: Steve Abshire

Candidate For: Juvenile Judge

Current Employer: Cordell and Cordell

1. Please detail your legal biography using the following format: 1000 character limit Undergraduate Education: Legal Education: Graduate Education: Legal/Courtroom Experience:

Bachelor of Arts in Urban Affairs from Wright State University
Masters in Arts in Applied Behavioral Science from Wright State University
Juris Doctorate from Toledo School of Law

Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office 2000-2011

Criminal Division, Child Abuse Bureau, Child Protection Unit, Child Support Division Private Practice
2011- Present

Served as a private attorney, court-appointed attorney and guardian ad litem in Montgomery County Juvenile Court and Domestic Relations Court

2. Please explain why you believe you are qualified for the judicial position for which you are seeking election. 1000 character limit

My experience in active duty military and serving in Desert Storm provided me with the necessary leadership and training that is required to serve large organizations, such as the Montgomery County Juvenile Court. Additionally, prosecuting child abuse as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, combined with my 12 years in private practice, focused exclusively on family law matters, makes me well-qualified to serve as Montgomery County's juvenile court judge. As a private attorney, I have served minor children and their families in all roles involving juvenile court, which include the role of Guardian Ad Litem and focusing on the best interest of the child in custody disputes. I also have represented juveniles in delinquency cases, truancy cases, unruly matters and traffic citations as well as representing parents who are involved with custody issues.

3. What experiences in your life or personal attributes make you believe that your courtroom would be a place where everyone receives justice, regardless of race, socio-economic status, gender, etc.? 1000 character limit

Having represented so many diverse families as a private attorney, I have learned that you need to look beyond what might be presented in front of you. It is the job of a judge, to help make sure kids are given the best options and best treatment plans. It is imperative for judicial leaders to “meet the juvenile where they are” and understand what issues the family and the juvenile are facing, which are often different in every family. Poverty, lack of educational resources, access to drugs and weapons and mental health issues are common reasons juveniles and their families are before the court. It is important to have in-depth knowledge about the familial-situation because the family structure shapes a child by providing security and developing their values and skills.

4. What will be the most significant challenge facing courts over the next ten years and what plans do you have to address that challenge? 1000 character limit

Over the next ten years, I see the biggest challenges being the continued rise of violent crimes, drug use, and mental health needs. I have learned through my work experience that it is vital for the court to maintain relationships with community partners who are geared towards strengthening the development of our youth. It is essential to work on individualized treatment plans needed for youth and the continuation and expansion of Drug Court and the Juvenile Mental Health Court and Family Treatment Court.



Name: Julie Bruns

Candidate For: Montgomery County Juvenile Court Judge

Current Employer: Montgomery County Juvenile Court

1. Please detail your legal biography using the following format: 1000 character limit Undergraduate Education: Legal Education: Graduate Education: Legal/Courtroom Experience:

Undergraduate Education: Bachelor of Science in Education from Miami University in 1993

Legal Education: Juris Doctorate from the University of Dayton School of Law in 1996

Legal/Courtroom Experience: A trial attorney for 23 years with the Montgomery County Prosecutors Office from 1996-2019. Prosecuted both adult and juvenile cases. Extensive trial experience including homicide, child physical and sexual assault and many other felony crimes. Supervisory experience which includes training attorneys in the Juvenile Division of the Montgomery County Prosecutors Office for 14 years. Magistrate in Montgomery County Juvenile Court presiding over civil custody, parenting time, visitation, and child support cases since 2019

2. Please explain why you believe you are qualified for the judicial position for which you are seeking election. 1000 character limit

I have worked in Juvenile Court for 20 years of my 26 years as an attorney. While in Juvenile Court as a Prosecuting Attorney, I prosecuted juveniles charged with crimes. After being promoted to Chief of the Juv. Div, I trained attorneys, worked with the Judges and Magistrates, and worked extensively with victims and police officers in Montgomery County in an attempt to reach the best result for everyone involved. During that time I also worked on cases which focused on truant youth and their custodians in an attempt to insure that the children attended school, to give the children a chance to be successful in life. During my career in Juvenile Court, I also served on the Juvenile Detention Alternative Committee, Disproportionate Minority Contact Committee, created a Nationally recognized Sexting Diversion Program, helped create the current Juvenile Competency laws, and presided over cases and made rulings on issues regarding children and their relationships with their parents.

3. What experiences in your life or personal attributes make you believe that your courtroom would be a place where everyone receives justice, regardless of race, socio-economic status, gender, etc.? 1000 character limit

I grew up in a small farming community with parents who were both teachers. From the time I was born, service to others was an expectation. Helping others in a time of need was a top priority. I believe that is

why I became an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and a Magistrate. That is also the reason that Juvenile Court has always appealed to me. While I represented victims for most of my career, I also understood that most of the juveniles I prosecuted would continue to be a part of our community. I knew that without the kinds of programs I was asked by the Court to be a part of, we could not rehabilitate these delinquent youth to be productive members of society. My experience has helped me understand that a balance needs to be found which not only includes protecting the victims but also rehabilitating the youth committing the crimes. This challenge comes full circle in Juvenile Court and often starts with custody decisions that will follow these children for a lifetime.

4. What will be the most significant challenge facing courts over the next ten years and what plans do you have to address that challenge? 1000 character limit

Family involvement and stability for children will continue to be the most significant challenge courts will face over the next ten years. When children live in homes with a parent or parents who do not nurture and care for them, those children are often robbed of opportunities to grow and expand their minds. Early intervention through school and possibly even the Juvenile Court, can be ways to detect neglect. I will work to continue developing programming that will identify these children and their families sooner in order to provide the services more timely and more consistently. Addressing the needs of the family, not just the individual children, could be a way to break the cycle of neglect.

2022 Non-Contested Races: Responses

- **Mary Kate Huffman, Judge of the Court of Appeals, 2nd District**
(1) Term Begins 2/9/2023
- **Ronald C. Lewis, Judge of the Court of Appeals, 2nd District**
(1) Term Begins 2/10/2023 – **No Response submitted.*
- **Mike Tucker, Judge of the Court of Appeals, 2nd District**
(1) Term Begins 2/11/2023
- **Mary Wiseman, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas**
(1) Term Begins 1/2/2023



Name: Mary Huffman

Candidate For: Second District Court of Appeals

Current Employer: Montgomery County Common Pleas Court

1. Please detail your legal biography using the following format: 1000 character limit Undergraduate Education: Legal Education: Graduate Education: Legal/Courtroom Experience:

Wright State University, B.A., Political Science, 1985, summa cum laude
University of Nevada, M.A., Judicial Studies, 2015
University of Dayton School of Law, Juris Doctorate 1990, summa cum laude
Practicing litigation attorney, Huffman, Landis & Weaks, 1990-2002

Judge, Montgomery County Common Pleas Court, 2002-present
Adjunct Professor, University of Dayton School of Law, 2003-present
Faculty, National Judicial College, 2016-present
Bar Admissions - Ohio, 1990
U.S. Supreme Court - 2015

2. Please explain why you believe you are qualified for the judicial position for which you are seeking election. 1000 character limit

I have been a practicing attorney for 32 years, and have served as a Common Pleas Court Judge for over 20 years. During my service on the bench I have presided over approximately 25,000 cases, both civil and criminal, and ranging from all degrees of felony, including death penalty cases, and a wide variety of civil cases, from complex litigation, medical malpractice, and class actions to a variety of tort, contract, and other civil suits.

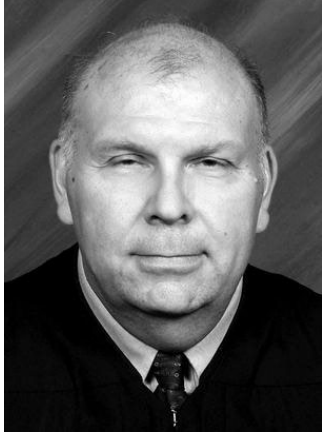
3. What experiences in your life or personal attributes make you believe that your courtroom would be a place where everyone receives justice, regardless of race, socio-economic status, gender, etc.? 1000 character limit

The privilege of my legal career has been the opportunity to assist as the judge presiding over a variety of specialized dockets, and most recently, our R.I.S.E. program, formerly known as Women's Therapeutic Court. Working with the women in the program, and all of the very dedicated treatment and service providers as well as the probation staff, we strive to provide services to women to assist in breaking the cycle of addiction and address the various barriers they face to success. We do so in a non-judgmental

manner, recognizing that the court must maintain its role, while also encouraging and supporting the efforts of the clients to achieve their goals of recovery and community success.

4. What will be the most significant challenge facing courts over the next ten years and what plans do you have to address that challenge? 1000 character limit

I believe the most significant challenge facing courts over the next ten years is the dwindling resources available to courts to serve individuals with substance use disorder and mental health concerns. Funding authorities must recognize the role courts play in assisting individuals on probation supervision with a variety of challenges to support their success.



Name: Michael Tucker

Candidate For: Second District Court of Appeals

Current Employer: Second District Court of Appeals

1. Please detail your legal biography using the following format: 1000 character limit Undergraduate Education: Legal Education: Graduate Education: Legal/Courtroom Experience:

Wright State University- 1977. University of Dayton School of Law-1980. Private Practice of Law-1980-2000. Montgomery County Common Pleas Court-General Division-2001-2016. Second District Court of Appeals-2017-Present.

2. Please explain why you believe you are qualified for the judicial position for which you are seeking election. 1000 character limit

I think my over 40 years experience as an attorney and judge qualifies me for the position.

3. What experiences in your life or personal attributes make you believe that your courtroom would be a place where everyone receives justice, regardless of race, socio-economic status, gender, etc.? 1000 character limit

I have always endeavored to decide cases and make decisions based only upon the facts and the law.

4. What will be the most significant challenge facing courts over the next ten years and what plans do you have to address that challenge? 1000 character limit

In my opinion, attracting dedicated and qualified attorneys to represent indigent criminal defendants at trial and on appeal is, and will continue to be, a significant challenge. I don't know if there is a good answer to this issue, but better compensation for the attorneys would perhaps help to some extent.



Name: Mary Wiseman

Candidate For: Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas, General Division

Current Employer: Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas, General Division

1. Please detail your legal biography using the following format: 1000 character limit Undergraduate Education: Legal Education: Graduate Education: Legal/Courtroom Experience:

J.D. with honors, 1988, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Little Rock, Arkansas.

B.S., 1984, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana.

I have served as a judge of the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas, General Division, since October, 2007. Thus, I have presided over numerous trials, hearings, and other matters. I have presided over criminal matters ranging from death penalty cases to low-level misdemeanors. On the civil side, my experience includes numerous trials, including personal injury accident matters, medical malpractice claims, commercial disputes, and virtual every type of civil dispute subject to the court's broad jurisdiction. I presided over the Women's Therapeutic Court for three years, which was both the most rewarding and the most heartwrenching experience I have ever had in my professional career. I regard it my solemn duty and responsibility in all matters to follow the law and treat everyone with dignity and respect.

2. Please explain why you believe you are qualified for the judicial position for which you are seeking election. 1000 character limit

I have held this position for fifteen years, yet I learn new law and evolve with those changing principles with every passing day. I have the experience, training, record, and temperament to well serve the lawyers and litigants with intelligence, fidelity to the law, reasonableness, timeliness, fairness, sound processes, open-mindedness, and justice. In addition to my lengthy judicial experience, I am deeply committed to our community and the legal profession. I have served in the past as the President of the Dayton Bar Association, the Carl D. Kessler Inn of Court, and the Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Project. I have taught at the University of Dayton School of Law and Sinclair Community College. Prior to joining the bench, I practiced complex commercial litigation in state and federal courts nationwide. I have extensive training and experience in presiding over specialty courts, having presided over the Women's Therapeutic Court from 2016-2019.

3. What experiences in your life or personal attributes make you believe that your courtroom would be a place where everyone receives justice, regardless of race, socio-economic status, gender, etc.? 1000 character limit

I treat everyone with dignity and respect, inside and outside of my courtroom. I pride myself on my judicial temperament, devotion to the law, and allowing lawyers and litigants the opportunity to be heard. I firmly believe that judges should be reasonable, timely, predictably follow the law, listen carefully, and allow leeway to counsel and their clients for life's exigencies and complications. Addressing systemic issues of discrimination in the justice system requires learning about those issues, discussing and addressing them with all appropriate stakeholders, and implementing steps to eliminate those barriers. For example, analyzing bail and bond decisions utilizing modern risk assessment tools, rather than always setting a traditional cash bail, is an important step forward for trial courts. Additionally, I have extensive training and experience in specialty courts, having presided over Montgomery County's Women's Therapeutic Court for three years.

4. What will be the most significant challenge facing courts over the next ten years and what plans do you have to address that challenge? 1000 character limit

Courts face the same societal, economic, and technological challenges that the other branches of government face. Thus, the courts will face challenges with societal change and discord, economic pressures, and technology advancing (sometimes for the better, and sometimes for the worse) faster than the law can adapt. As with any evolving, complex eco-system, the plans for addressing those challenges should involve dialogue with stakeholders; assessments of best practices locally, statewide, and nationwide; meaningful opportunities for input by stakeholders; open-mindedness; and the careful and thoughtful implementation of potential solutions, followed by ongoing reviews, assessments, and efficacy evaluations. This, in my opinion, is a never-ending process, as my observation is that sometimes, today's solutions become tomorrow's problems. However, people of goodwill and dedication can continue working towards improvements to every system, for the betterment of all of us.