

VOTERS' GUIDE, NOVEMBER 3, 2009—PART 1

Ravenna City Council, Ward 1, Ward 2, Council-at-Large Kent City Mayor, Council-at-Large Judge Municipal Court (full term commencing 1/1/2010) Judge Municipal Court (full term commencing 1/2/2010)

This voters' guide is a joint venture of the League of Women Voters of Kent and Northern Portage County.

It should be noted that the League does not endorse candidates or political parties.

The League material contained in this publication was assembled in the following manner:

Questions were selected by the League of Women Voters and addressed to the candidates. Word limits were placed on responses, and candidates were advised that their responses would be printed in accordance with space limitations. Only brief biographical information on unopposed candidates is printed to conserve space. Only the names and addresses of write-in candidates are included.

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Candidates' responses have been published the way they were written including the grammar and spelling used in responding to the questionnaires. Some responses were modified to meet the word limits.

We also wish to thank Director Linda Marcial, Deputy Director Lois Enlow, and the staff at the Portage County Board of Elections for their valuable assistance in compiling this material. The information contained in this publication may not be reproduced without consent of the League of Women Voters.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Membership in the League is open to all citizens of voting age, male or female. The League is funded by members' dues and contributions from members and non-members. Donations are welcome.

Locally, voter information is available at the Portage County Board of Elections at (330) 297-3511 or at www.co.portage.oh.us/election/.

League of Women Voters of Kent

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COUNCIL – WARD 1, RAVENNA CITY

- Questions: 1. How do you propose to maintain or increase the city's revenue?
2. What role should the Council play in trying to assist businesses in your community survive these tough economic times?

STEVEN R. BAILEY

841 Mechanic Ave.
Ravenna, OH 44266

Age: 58

Education: Ravenna High School graduate.

Occupation: Full-time councilman

Experience: I am in my fourth year as Ward 1 councilman. I have not missed one regular council meeting since 2006.

Answers:

1. It is important for city council to work closely with the city administration to maintain a good working budget. In light of the severe economic recession, city council must do its due diligence in making sure that the residents tax dollars are not being wasted while continuing to provide good neighborhood services. I believe that city council should continue to review and adjust departmental fees to help offset department operational costs.
2. Council should support the administration in hiring an economic development director or partnering with Portage County in economic development. If there is any federal monies available for local economic development, the city should make every effort to obtain those dollars for our local businesses and industries.

SHARON SPENCER

131 N. Scranton St.
Ravenna, OH 44266

Age: 59

Education: Graduate of Crestwood High School - 1968

Occupation: Retired with 37 yrs. from Portage Co. Bd of Elections

Experience: Served on Portage Co. Democratic Central Comm. and represented the 11th Congressional District as Democratic State Central Committee woman. Involved in county government for 37 yrs.

Answers:

1. At this time, increasing revenue would be difficult. It is necessary to examine the existing budget, from each department submitting a budget, with a fine tooth comb, removing all items not deemed a necessity. The hope here would be to not have to eliminate jobs. To increase the revenue, one would do so through new jobs. The best hope of this would be state or national programs of assistance (Stimulus, etc)
2. Council should assist as they can. They make sure that each business/company be made aware of every state grant or loan that might be available. The ties between the Chamber of Commerce and the city should be strong.

COUNCIL – WARD 2, RAVENNA CITY

FRANK SEMAN

357 N. Freedom St.
Ravenna, OH 44266

No reply received.

COUNCIL-AT-LARGE, RAVENNA CITY (vote for 2)

Questions: 1. How do you propose to maintain or increase the city's revenue?

2. What role should the Council play in trying to assist businesses in your community survive these tough economic times?

JOSEPH BICA, JR.

380 Linden Ave.
Ravenna, OH 44266

Age: 41

Education: Malone University BBA '03. Tiffin University MBA '10

Occupation: Vice President of Business Development, Applied Vision Corp., Akron,

Experience: Council 8 years. Chair Public Utilities Committee. Vice Chair Council Finance Committee. City Budget Commission. Extensive experience in domestic & international business, multimillion-dollar budgeting, long term strategic planning, sales, & marketing.

Answers:

1. As a council member it is my responsibility to help maintain the fiscal health of the City. We can not continue to burden the taxpayers with additional taxes to cover City expenses. We must change the way we operate and do business as a municipality. We need to cut the fat and do more with less. We need to manage and plan our budgets in line with a business model and force ourselves to maintain control over spending.

2. Ravenna businesses are the life blood of our community. Council needs to do everything it can to help retain and promote the current business stock and attract new business complimentary to the demographics and resources that Ravenna has to offer. We must also be more aggressive in identifying and implementing business incentives like tax abatements, State & Federal stimulus, public financing incentives and community outreach and promotion that may assist local business.

GENE BROWN

340 Elm St.
Ravenna, OH 44266

Education: Akron U., Sales & Merchandising Degree.

Ohio Chemical Dependency Professional Board: Chemical Dependency Counselor Assistant.

Occupation: Owen Corning Tech III Operator. Urban Ounce of Prevention—Chemical Dependency Counselor Assistant.

Experience: 20 y--Chairmen Ravenna City Council Planning Comm., Treasure of Portage County Democratic Party – 2000-2006, Democratic Central Executive Comm. 2000-2006, Ravenna Park and Recreation Board – Council Rep.

Answers:

1. I will entitle the plan "The Path Forward" Going forward we need a planning tool to maintain cost and increase revenues for 2010. I would use this outline for suggestions and a template for the discussion:

1. The Mayor has asked the city's unions to partner with us to list cost saving ideas and cost cutting measures, we'll continue this discussion until we see a change in the Ravenna's Economy

2. Another cost saving measure would be to have a capital purchase budget to cover large expenditures such as a new fire truck or police car.

3. Coordinate efforts between city, township, and county departments of public works to maximize our efforts in infrastructure improvements.

4. Appoint a city official and a council representative to network with local colleges and university to assist in policies and programs to identify and address the needs of the community.

2. Ravenna City Council can best serve the business community by making efforts to strengthen our local business community. We will do this by employing the following strategies:

- Understand the changing economy
- Adjust our local economic development efforts: Establish a Economic Development Team
- Develop the skills and talents of local workers through workforce training efforts
- Cross Boundaries to build partnerships: With Township, County, State & Federal Officials
- Identify how Ravenna can participate in the global economy

COUNCIL-AT-LARGE, RAVENNA CITY (vote for 2) (continued)

Questions: 1. How do you propose to maintain or increase the city's revenue?

2. What role should the Council play in trying to assist businesses in your community survive these tough economic times?

AMY MICHAEL

245 Madison St.
Ravenna, OH 44266

Age: 37

Education: Ravenna High School, attended Kent State University

Occupation: Unit secretary Robinson Memorial Hospital

Experience: President, Friends of the Parks, Ravenna Parks & Rec. Board member, West Main School PTO.

Answers:

1. The best way to increase the city's revenue is by increasing its tax base. Prospective investors interested in Ravenna must know they will be working with a fiscally responsible and responsive city council. Given our proximity to KSU we should be developing technology sector jobs. Additionally, the city should pursue grants to assist in service and environmental improvements. We need to promote the Chamber of Commerce and increase economic development initiatives within the city.

2. What businesses need most is a stable customer base. The city can assist businesses by strengthening the local customer base and subsequently expanding that base. The city can strengthen the local base by providing quality public services and desirable housing stock. The city is blessed to be the home of Robinson Memorial Hospital as well as the county seat, which brings hundreds of people to Ravenna on a daily basis. We need to guide those visitors to local businesses.

KENNETH ROACH, SR.

626 Cleveland Rd.
Ravenna, OH 44266

No reply received.

MAYOR, KENT CITY

- Questions: 1. Describe your leadership style and how you will work with city council and other governmental entities to meet the needs of your community.
2. What do you see as the two most pressing problems facing your city?

JERRY FIALA

614 Pioneer Ave.

Kent, OH 44240

Party: Independent

Age: 66

Education: Graduate of RHS; 12 years further education of Industrial Arts

Occupation: Retired from Tree City Mold & Machine / Part-time courier for Homes Savings Bank

Experience: 14 years as city councilperson, 1 year appointed Mayor. Past member of National League of Cities.

Answer: 1. I will have an open door policy; will work hand in hand with the University. And will listen and relay citizens concerns & questions to council.

2. Preservation and revitalization in neighborhoods and downtown areas.

RICK HAWKSLEY

120 Portage St.

Kent, OH 44240

Party: Democratic

Age: 52

Education: Master of Architecture (Community Design) KSU; BS of Architecture KSU

Occupation: Architect

Experience: 2 terms (current) Kent City Council at Large; Community Action Council Board; Western Reserve Land Conservancy Board; Founder: PLACE/Land Trust; Former Board chair PARTA; Co-Founder—Haymaker Farm Market; Numerous Boards, committees and Commissions; Pedestrian, Bicycle and Transit Advocate.

Answers:

1. I have shown in my work on council and other boards that I can collaborate with my fellow members to find creative and visionary approaches to enhance the quality of life of all members of our community. I am continually seeking innovation from within our state and across the nation and world as appropriate to reach these ends. I have shown that I am willing to do the hard work to create public-private partnerships, as well as to find appropriate policy solutions to help the public sector work more effectively. The mayor/president of council has the primary responsibility to help keep the focus of council on the future...exactly what I have done in many strategic initiatives.

2. As a college town, Kent has the unique challenge of being two communities in one. Bridging the sometimes conflicting demands of two populations must always be a primary objective of our government. Continual improvement of our downtown, protection of our neighborhoods and the creation of a high quality community that attracts youth while providing cultural and recreational activities for all ages will result in long term prosperity and vitality for our great city.

The second pressing problem is the preservation and expansion of the commercial tax base. Since the city is highly dependent upon income taxes, we need to focus on job creation and retention. We can do this by encouraging home occupations, research and development in conjunction with the university, expansion of existing small and medium sized business, and the continual expansion of Kent State University.

COUNCIL-AT-LARGE—Kent City (Vote for 3)

Questions: 1. How do you propose to maintain or increase the city's revenue?

2. What role should the Council play in trying to assist businesses in your community survive these tough economic times?

MICHAEL A. DELEONE

530 Fairchild Ave.

Kent, OH 44240

Party: Democratic

Age: 49

Education: Theodore Roosevelt High School. 1978 attended The Ohio State Univ.

Occupation: Equipment Operator

Experience: Current Kent City Council-at-Large—12 years perfect attendance

Answers:

1. The City can maintain and increase revenues by following up with the existing businesses. The City's Economic Development Coordinator meets with Kent businesses to see how they are doing, offering any assistance the City may be able to provide. Kent needs to invest in economic development projects not only in downtown, but in the entire city to be more development friendly within the new development guidelines. New development creates new jobs, which expands our tax base and increases revenue.

2. Council does and should continue to assist businesses to survive, but more importantly to keep business in our town. Don Joseph is a good example of how Kent kept a business from relocating. Kent's Economic Development Coordinator has a program where he meets with businesses to assess their needs and reports to the City Manager and Council. I think Council should do whatever it can to sustain Kent businesses.

VIC HART

354 W. Main St.

Kent, OH 44240

Party: Democratic

No reply received.

ROBIN G. TURNER

327 Dodge St.

Kent, OH 44240

Age: 53

Party: Democratic

Education: Kent Roosevelt High School, 2 ½ yrs. college

Occupation: Kent City Councilman at Large

Experience: Involved in various community organization and activities.

Answers:

1. In the current recession many people have suffered a reduction in their income or lost their jobs altogether. Kent City revenues are projected to be flat at best. Any tax increase now would hurt those that are most vulnerable, and discourage the economic growth we need to turn things around. In difficult times like these it is up to city leaders to find solutions that expand the city's resources without draining the economic vitality of the city. Our continuing focus should be to look at our budget with the aim of achieving the greatest efficiency while minimizing waste and redundancy. Next, a thorough examination of our investment policy may reveal new opportunities in financial markets that increase our return without increasing our risk. In addition, we should take a hard look at assets and property the city owns and divest ourselves of those that no longer serve our plans.

2. We must continue to promote a positive environment for economic development. Kent must maintain the best possible physical and economic infrastructure at a reasonable cost to residents. At the same time the city must continue to build relationships with the business community through outreach and involvement. We must act as facilitator while aggressively seeking opportunities for business collaboration and partnership. We can be an effective resource to businesses that want to expand. In addition, Kent has a number of economic development tools in place that include a revolving loan program, job creation tax credits, property tax abatement and reallocation, a downtown façade program and various grant programs. It is important that we administer these programs openly and effectively as a valuable resource for business.

COUNCIL-AT-LARGE—Kent City (Vote for 3) (continued)

Questions: 1. How do you propose to maintain or increase the city's revenue?

2. What role should the Council play in trying to assist businesses in your community survive these tough economic times?

DREW SMITH

208 Lake St. #2
Kent, OH 44240
Party: Independent
No reply received.

ERIK D. VALENTA

670 Beechmont Place Dr.
Kent, OH 44240
Party: Independent
Age: 39
Education: BA—Finance St. Vincent College Latrobe, PA
Occupation: Professional Writer.

Experience: I have run multimillion dollar offices for bank and lending institutions where dedication, promotion, integrity and organization were keys to success. I have lived and worked in multiple college towns and understand the dynamics of community and business relationships.

Answers:

1. This is an ongoing dilemma for the City of Kent and there isn't an easy solution to the problem especially in these tough economic times. We have all felt the impact of the recent recession and raising taxes is not the solution. Economic development is the key to success. Our city needs to establish new businesses and new employment opportunities for residents. In turn, Kent will grow and so will the revenue base. The redevelopment of downtown Kent is the key to the future and should be supported by everyone. Secondly, the city needs to control expenses. In fiscally tough times, major expenditures should be reviewed with utmost diligence. I am not suggesting cutting any services we currently have, but finding a way that we can do things smarter. We also need to curtail any new major spending unless it is a benefit to the community as a whole.

2. Business support is essential to the survival of Kent. With each person we lose to relocation we are losing a family member, a friend, and a vital part of our community. Economically when a business closes or workers are laid off, we are losing revenue and our city suffers emotionally and fiscally. Kent currently offers a variety of programs to assist businesses: Low Interest Loans, Tax Incentives and Job Creation Tax Credits. The city also provides assistance through The Area Chamber of Commerce and Department of Economic Development. Help should come in the form of more education and promotion, not financially. By promoting more events, we will show surrounding areas what Kent has to offer. Developing a better traffic flow for the downtown area will entice people to drive downtown and support our businesses. Kent is a great city for family and businesses and cannot survive without either.

**FOR JUDGE OF MUNICIPAL COURT
(Full term commencing January 1, 2010)**

- Questions: 1. What trial experience do you have? How will that experience affect your ability to be a good judge?
2. Are there any docket control measures which you would suggest for the Portage County Municipal Court System?*

PAUL BRICKNER

520 Hickory Mills Cir.
Kent, OH 44240

Education: University of Richmond, B.A.; Case Western Reserve University, J.D. (law); Cleveland State University, LL.M. (advanced law)

Occupation: Lawyer

Experience: Federal Administrative Law Judge, 20+ years; Adjunct law school professor University of Akron; Publications: Harvard, Columbia, Georgetown, etc. Appellate Judge, U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals (rank of Colonel); Acting municipal court judge/referee

Answers:

1. I have extensive trial experience on both sides of the bench. I have served as a federal, state and municipal prosecutor in numerous judge and jury trials. Also, I have handled appeals in 3 state appellate courts and in the U.S. Court of Appeals, Cincinnati. This experience has sharpened those skills needed to perform well in the office of judge: knowledge of the rules of evidence and procedure; understanding the difficulties and high pressure that trial attorneys face. I have had over 20 years of experience as a federal Administrative Law Judge, SSA and DOL; nine years as an appellate judge, U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals; service as acting municipal court judge. Experience is the best teacher.
2. I would limit continuances and make greater use of magistrates to expedite processing of cases. I would require frequent updates on aging cases to prevent their falling between the cracks.

BECKY DOHERTY

1425 Kristen Cir.
Suffield, OH 44260

Age: 46

Education: Law School—Akron U—1991; Bachelor's Akron U—Education/Criminal Law—1987

Occupation: Solo Practice—Criminal Defense, Civil cases, juvenile, domestic relations. Solicitor for the Village of Lakemore, Ohio Special Prosecutor—Portage County

Experience: Criminal Prosecutor 17 years, violent crime unit; civil defense litigator Allstate; certified Police Academy instructor; handle legal issues for village.

Answers:

1. I have been a very active trial attorney for seventeen years, having tried hundreds of felony cases. For the past fourteen years, I have handled primarily aggravated murders, robberies, rapes, burglaries, felonious assaults, and high level drug trafficking. Currently, my practice includes criminal defense, civil litigation, and government representation. My extensive knowledge of the legal issues and rules of evidence will enable me to serve. . ., fully equipped to deal with the attorneys and cases before me. Each person has a role in the court system, whether there by choice (attorneys and plaintiffs) or by circumstance (defendant's and witnesses). I understand these roles, the rules, and the necessity to treat everyone involved evenhanded and fair to ensure the best outcome. I am an experienced negotiator, and believe that ability will assist me as well in dispute resolution. As a result of years of experience, I am confident and comfortable in the courtroom.
2. The docket in the Municipal Court system is staggering—30,000 criminal/traffic cases and 8000 civil cases were processed last year. First, I suggest utilizing diversion programs for lesser offenses in which counseling and/or treatment is appropriate. Only defendants with no prior criminal convictions would be eligible. After pleading guilty, successful completion of a one year program devised by the court would allow the case to be dismissed. Government grants are available to assist funding these programs which would alleviate the financial burden on the county and the constant court involvement with the case. Second, it is the judge who controls the docket and the rate at which the cases are moved through. This is difficult, because while the docket clearly should be managed, the court also must accommodate the schedules of the parties involved—witnesses, police, attorneys, etc. However, experience in handling cases. . .will help keep the docket in check.

**FOR JUDGE OF MUNICIPAL COURT
(Full term commencing January 1, 2010) (continued)**

*Questions: 1. What trial experience do you have? How will that experience affect your ability to be a good judge?
2. Are there any docket control measures which you would suggest for the Portage County Municipal Court System?*

TOMMIE JO MARSILIO

10991 Wheeler Rd.
Garrettsville, OH 44231

Age: 36

Education: Juris Doctorate from Capital Law School, Columbus, Ohio; Bachelor Of Arts from Youngstown State University

Occupation: Portage County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

Experience: Legal service to local, state, and federal government. Decided thousands of workers' compensation claims as Hearing Officer. National litigation and representation of Portage County Schools, families, and cities.

Answers:

1. A strong judicial candidate should be familiar with the entire court process, which is "litigation" rather than just "trial experience." I have tried cases in Portage County, Summit County and Cuyahoga County. More importantly, however, I have years of experience in complex litigation management in Ohio and other states, along with local counsel. I have defended hundreds of depositions, drafted many pleadings, and engaged in hundreds of discovery processes. Furthermore, as a Hearing Officer, I decided workers' compensation claims when the Employer and the Injured Worker did not agree. This makes me the candidate with the best experience in my race. I will bring this broad experience to the bench because I have done all of the aspects of litigation as an attorney.

2. I believe the best docket control system is to fairly enforce the rules and guidelines that are in place. This means that the same rules and timelines apply to everyone, regardless of their name, their attorney, or their political party affiliation. Politics will not enter my court room and I would hold everyone accountable to keep cases on track.

KEVIN T. POLAND

524 E. Riddle Ave.
Ravenna, OH 44266

Age: 48

Education: Kent State BBA '83. University of Akron J.D. '86

Occupation: Mayor—City of Ravenna, Private Law Practice

Experience: Ravenna Ward IV Councilman, 1987-91. Ravenna President City Council, '91-2005. Ravenna Mayor, 2006-Present. Portage County Prosecutor—Assistant Prosecutor, 11/86-12/87. Acting Judge over 10 years. Board of Trustees Portage/Geauga Juvenile Detention Center.

Answers:

1. I have over 22 years of active, on-going trial experience, including the Court of Appeals, Court of Common Pleas, and particularly, Municipal Court. I have been in the Municipal Court on an on-going, regular basis for my entire legal career. This experience includes virtually every aspect of Municipal Court work, i.e., criminal prosecution, criminal defense, plaintiff civil claims, defendant civil claims, as well as small claims. This also includes trial to both the court and to jury. As an Acting Judge, I have also ruled on both civil and criminal cases. My experience has uniquely qualified me to serve as Municipal Court Judge. I have spent my entire legal career in Ravenna. I have prosecuted, defended and presided, as Acting Judge, over Municipal Court cases. I have an excellent working knowledge of Municipal Court law, the Rules of Evidence, as well as courthouse staff which will allow a smooth transition to judge.

2. First and foremost, the Judge must set the example by being in office promptly every day. The staff must pay close attention to timely scheduling cases. Continuances of cases cannot be avoided at times, but should only be granted for unforeseen circumstances. I believe delays could be reduced through greater coordination between court staff and attorneys before cases are set for hearing. This can be accomplished by setting cases while counsel is present with their calendars, or e-mailing the office to ensure no scheduling conflicts exist. This will help reduce continuances resulting from attorneys being

Poland Answer #2 continued:

previously scheduled in another court, particularly with counsel from outside Portage County. Police Departments must also timely notify the Court of dates their officers, are unavailable for hearings due to vacations, training, etc. It is the responsibility of all those involved with Municipal Court to work together to reduce delays as much as possible. . .

**FOR JUDGE OF MUNICIPAL COURT
(Full term commencing January 2, 2010)**

*Questions: 1. What trial experience do you have? How will that experience affect your ability to be a good judge?
2. Are there any docket control measures which you would suggest for the Portage County Municipal Court System?*

DAVID BRODE

7282 Infirmery Rd.
Ravenna, OH 44266

Age: 52

Education: Juris Doctorate, University of Akron (1990); Master Business Administration, Kent State University (1985); Bachelor Business Administration, Kent State University (1980); Ohio Judicial College, (1992-2002).

Occupation: Portage County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

Experience: Commercial banking/financial managements (8 years); Director of Finance, Ravenna (4 years); Magistrate Portage County Court of Common Pleas (11 years).

Answers:

1. I served as a Referee and Magistrate in the Court of Common Pleas for eleven (11) years. I was responsible for hearing and deciding thousands of cases. I presided over criminal (felony and misdemeanor), civil and traffic cases. I already have substantial judicial experience and have demonstrated the ability to manage a docket and impartially decide matters that come before the Court. I will bring that experience to my service as a Municipal Court Judge. That experience will allow me to serve in a manner that commands respect for the legal system and confidence in the fairness and integrity of the Court.

2. The Court system has rules to control the docket. My years of judicial experience have taught me that new rules are not the solution. Like many things, in life, the key is to fairly enforce the rules that we have. The rules cannot be modified based upon bias or "political friends". These rules must be fairly applied to everyone that comes to court. This approach will make special or new docket control measures unnecessary.

MARK K. FANKHAUSER

1421 River Trail Blvd.
Kent, OH 44240

Age: 39

Education: Graduate: Ravenna High School, Kent State University, Akron School of Law

Occupation: Attorney in private practice for eleven years

Experience: Represented 1000's of clients in both Municipal and Common Pleas Courts. I have the ability, honesty and integrity to be a fair and just Judge while respecting the rights of all concerned.

Answers:

1. I have litigated thousands of civil and criminal cases in the Portage County Courts and the Courts of our neighboring counties. The criminal cases have ranged in severity from minor misdemeanors to serious felonies. Though, most cases are settled by plea negotiations, I have had many go to trial before a jury or a Judge. The experience I have acquired has built a solid foundation on which to be a fair and impartial Judge.

2. If the fine people of Portage County choose to elect me as their next Municipal Court Judge, I will be diligent in monitoring my case load to ensure that all cases are heard and adjudicated in a timely manner. No case should be lost because of time! I will make sure all cases are completed pursuant to the Ohio Supreme Court's rules and procedures.

**FOR JUDGE OF MUNICIPAL COURT
(Full term commencing January 2, 2010) (continued)**

- Questions: 1. What trial experience do you have? How will that experience affect your ability to be a good judge?
2. Are there any docket control measures which you would suggest for the Portage County Municipal Court System?*

WILLIAM A. NOME

623 Fairchild Ave.
Kent, OH 44240

Education: Akron University, Cleveland-Marshall Law College, Northwestern University Law School
Prosecutor's Course, Army Institute Advanced MP Course, Community Mediation Services—Basic,
Domestic, Domestic Abuse Mediation, Ohio Judicial College

Occupation: PARTA Legal Counsel, Acting Judge, Private Law Practice

Experience: Municipal Court Judge, acting judge, Law Practice, Assistant Prosecutor, JAG lawyer, MP
brigade commander.

Answers:

1. In Portage County, I tried cases to municipal court judges for 1 ½ years as a legal intern before becoming a lawyer and jury and bench trials after that as Assistant Prosecutor. I prosecuted in Municipal Court in Newton Falls when their Prosecutor was unavailable. I represented both plaintiffs and defendants in civil cases and defended criminal cases in municipal court between 1978 and 2004. I have presided over bench and jury trials as acting judge and Municipal Court Judge. My trial experience, as prosecutor, defense counsel and judge, and maturity from years of practicing law, affords me a genuine appreciation of all facets of a trial. . .I have appeared before numerous judges and have seen both positive and less than positive traits. I have as judge and acting judge and will as judge next year employ the best attributes I have learned and experienced to provide fair and impartial

2. Improvement is always possible. Hiring an efficient Assignment Clerk is essential to keeping up with the docket. In 2008, 36,860 new cases were filed in the court. Each court has one week per month set aside for jury trials. Frequently, jury trials settle on the Friday before they are scheduled for trial and a court room is virtually not used during that jury week. I would recommend scheduling twice the number of cases for jury trial and having a final pretrial one week earlier, at which time two cases are committed to go to jury trial. Most jury trials take one day or less, so two trials could be held within one week. I also plan on having a full schedule for Friday afternoons to keep case from languishing. Each cases deserves fair and prompt resolution.