

Deborah M. Turner



Office: Bedford Municipal Court

Age: 61

Address: Solon

E-mail:
deborahturnerlaw04@gmail.com

Website: Facebook: Deborah M. Turner for Judge Website:
deborahmturner.com

Occupation: Assistant Law Director and Prosecutor for the City of Bedford Heights. Private Law Practice: Criminal, Family and Probate Law

Education: B.A. Cleveland State, M.ED. Cleveland State, J.D. Cleveland Marshall College of Law

Work Experience: Private Law Practice since 1999, Prosecutor since 2008

Family: Married, 4 adult children and 4 grandchildren

Affiliations: National Council of Negro Women, Bedford Historical Society, Black Women's Political Action Committee, Avon Avenue Baptist Church

Endorsements: Pending

Bar Association Ratings: Not Available at this time.

(1) List your judicial experience (courts & years).

Part-time Magistrate, Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court 1999-2003
 Part-time Magistrate, Bedford Municipal Court 2007-2014
 Volunteer Juvenile Diversion Magistrate, 2008-2014 (Serving Bedford Heights, Cleveland, and Warrensville Heights)

(2) What about your non-judicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?

I have spent my life as a public servant, engaging with individuals from all walks of life as a teacher, mentor, volunteer and as a lawyer. Our communities are diverse in terms of age, ethnicity, race, as well as religious affiliation. Interactions with individuals on all of these levels presents a well rounded individual. Representation of indigent defendants in both Bedford Court and Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court, has provided a perspective of the poor and their feelings in a system that many have little or no knowledge. One of the most serious offenses handled by the Municipal Court is related to violence in the home. My experience as a Guardian ad Litem in Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court representing the "Best Interests of the Child" has provided an opportunity to interact with children and families on yet another level which is enlightening and beneficial to a jurist. As a prosecutor since 2008, I have worked with police chiefs, detectives, patrol officers, and children and family services in an effort to make sure that justice is served providing safe communities for our residents to live. I have used my position as prosecutor to educate children as it relates to at-risk behavior in an attempt to prevent involvement with the system. Judges are in a position to make changes in the lives of individuals with the hope and belief that all will benefit. It is impossible to understand the lives of a person until you have walked a mile in their shoes.

(3) Why are you running for this particular court seat?

I am running for this seat because of my familiarity with the Court policies, procedures and the staff. I have worked with the Court in a variety of positions since 2004. Service began as an attorney representing indigent defendants, in 2007 appointed as the Traffic Magistrate and later served as a Small Claims Magistrate until September 2014. Another perspective of the court has been seen through the eyes of a prosecutor, while serving as the Prosecutor for Bedford Heights and Warrensville Heights, two of the thirteen residential communities that feed into the Court. I have a relationship with this Court which can be helpful in making transitions. I have also lived in the greater Bedford area since 1979, raised my children and my

husband and I are the proud parents of Bedford alum. I also, have a relationship with the community thorough my involvement with the schools and having served as a trustee on the Board for the Bedford Historical Society. I am a integral part of the community as a whole.

Project Partners: Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics at the University of Akron The Ohio State Bar Association
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