

Jon Oldham



Office: Akron Municipal Court
Age: 38

Address: Akron

E-mail: jonoldham17@gmail.com

Website: oldhamforjudge.com

Facebook: Jon Oldham for Judge

Occupation: Magistrate, Summit County Probate Court

Education: Walsh Jesuit High School; Ohio University, B.S.; The University of Akron School of Law, J.D.

Work Experience: Summit County Prosecutor's Office, Child Support Enforcement Agency (2000-2001); Oldham Kramer fka Oldham & Dowling (2001-2013); Summit County Probate Court (2013 to present)

Affiliations: Community Health Center Foundation, Trustee; Victim Assistance Program, Trustee; Akron Bar Association, Trustee; Oriana House Advisory Committee; Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Committee; Jewish Community Board of Akron, Committee; Community Legal Aid, Volunteer Attorney; Eagle Scout, Boy Scouts of America; Grace Church

Family: Married with two daughters

Endorsements: Akron Education Association; Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association; Plumbers & Pipefitters JATC of Akron, Local 219; please see website for others

Bar Association Ratings: 'Rated Excellent' by the Akron Bar Association

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

Magistrate, Summit County Probate Court (2013 to present); Visiting Magistrate, Akron Municipal Court (2012)

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

The breadth of my legal experience in private practice provides me with a unique skill set to be a fair, efficient, and decisive judge. For over a decade, I represented both sides of the aisle: criminal defendants and victims, large and small businesses, wealthy and indigent individuals, insurance companies and personal injury victims, landlords and tenants, and creditors and debtors. Such variability in perspectives has not caused me to be "plaintiff oriented" or "defense oriented," or "soft on crime" or "a hanging judge." Instead, I make fair decisions as justice requires. My experience allows me to anticipate where a case is heading because I understand the many types of personalities and issues people bring with them when they come to court. For example, I am able to identify substance abuse, domestic violence, and client control issues, I have an understanding of what a fair result of the dispute should be, and I can appreciate the amount of work, money, and stress required to see a matter through trial. Lastly, I understand the balance between a swift docket and depriving parties of due process or their day in court. I bring this understanding with me every time I take the bench. For these reasons, I am qualified to serve my community as Akron Municipal Court Judge.

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

I believe every family deserves a safe community, and safe communities begin with strong courts. My current work as magistrate in the Summit County Probate Court, trustee of Community Health Center Foundation, and trustee of Victim Assistance Program, serve as constant reminders that Akron Municipal Court faces great challenges relating to substance abuse, domestic violence, mental illness, and other issues. I believe I possess the necessary experience and compassion to serve our community. The seat I am running for was an open seat until my opponent was appointed in April of 2015.

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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