

Marie Lane



Office: Ashtabula Municipal Court

Age: 49

Address: Ashtabula

E-mail: marielane2015@gmail.com

Website: laneforjudge.com and on facebook as Marie Lane for Judge of the Ashtabula Municipal Court

Occupation: Director, Ashtabula County Public Defender's Office

Education: J.D. from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law and B.S. from West Virginia Wesleyan College

Work Experience: 17 years as Director of the Ashtabula County Public Defender's Office and 6 years as an Assistant in the Stark County Public Defender's Office

Family: Parents in Cuyahoga Falls, Oh; Brother, Sister in Law and 2 nieces in Mentor, Oh; Sister, Brother in Law and 2 nephews in Buckhannon, W.Va.

Affiliations: President, Mental Health and Recovery Services Board; Trustee, Ashtabula Elks Lodge; American Legion Women's Auxillary; Methodist

Endorsements: Ohio Democratic Women's Caucus; Ashtabula County Democratic Party; Ashtabula County AFL-CIO

Bar Association Ratings: N/A

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

I have specialized in criminal law for my entire career, including 22 years of practicing law in the municipal court system.

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

For 22 years I have been preparing myself for this position. I am the only candidate that has been appointed to the Ohio Supreme Court's Commission on Specialized Dockets. This commission is responsible for the statewide rules governing Ohio's specialized docket courts. There are 183 of these programs in Ohio with one existing in Ashtabula County. I am one of the founding members of this court, which was created in 2008. This program has an 85% rate of success, and has provided many local citizens the path to a productive life. As the Director of the Ashtabula County Public Defender's Office, I have witnessed the continuous revolving door of the same offenders. These offenders not only know the system, they readily use it by exploiting inherent weaknesses or loopholes. I see these loopholes. As Judge I will close these loopholes by reorganizing the court. The tools already available to that court must be used in a more effective manner. During my career I have seen every type of criminal offender. The municipal court judge must be able to discern between those offenders who are a danger to the community and must be incarcerated, from those who can be successfully treated and rehabilitated, or those who simply made a mistake and need a speedy and fair resolution to their cases. I know how criminals minimize their roles in offenses; holding offenders accountable will provide community respect and renew a sense of security among our elderly population.

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

I had excellent role models in my formative years. My mother is a retired elementary teacher and my father is a retired chemist. These role models helped to instill in me the qualities necessary to become a leader. The Judge of the Ashtabula Municipal Court has to possess leadership qualities. For too long I have witnessed the inefficiency of the Ashtabula Municipal Court. I have been very vocal in expressing how that court needs to change in order to catch up with current criminal behavior. Under my leadership, there will be significant changes resulting in a more efficient and accountable court. Please visit laneforjudge.com to view a more comprehensive understanding of my plans. Leadership is a process. I have shown myself worthy of this next

step by going through the process. For example, I am the President of the County's Mental Health Board. I am a Trustee of the Ashtabula Elks Club, and serve in the Women's Auxiliary at the Ashtabula American Legion. 17 years ago, when I took the helm of the County's Public Defender's Office, I faced stiff opposition to change. Since then, I stand by my record of running that office in an efficient manner. My track record stands as one who stays within budget without compromising service to the community. I am running for this seat because our community deserves stronger leadership. The elderly deserve to feel safe. Our children need to feel safe. Given the opportunity, I will make that happen.

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