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Pauline H. Tarver



Office: Cleveland Municipal Court

Age: 60

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Website: Re-elect @ Judge Paulline H. Tarver.com, facebook, twitter, instagram

Occupation: Judge, Cleveland Municipal Court

Education: B.A. John Carroll University

Work Experience: Judge, Cleveland Municipal Court since 2004; NAACP Executive Director 1982 -2003; Grantwriter 1980 – 81; CRCC 1976 – 80; Community Organizer 1975 – 76

Family: Single

Affiliations: Antioch Baptist Church, National Council of Negro Women, Black Women's Political Action Committee, NBA-Judicial Council, AJA-Board of Governors, Northern Ohio Municipal Judges Association,

Endorsements: AFL-CIO, Black Women's Political Action Committee, AFSCME, APWU, ATU Local 268, Cleveland Building and Construction Trades Council, Pipefitters Local 120, UAW

Bar Association Ratings: No answer provided

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

I served as an Acting Magistrate In East Cleveland Municipal Court under Judge Una H.R. Keenon 1993- 1998. I have been on the Cleveland Municipal Court Bench since January 3, 2004

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

My entire life and I have prepared to be on the bench. I have been involved with the community my entire career, working as a community organizer and then going on to work with all facets of the community, victims of crime, Police Departments and Grand Juries. I worked five years with the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center counseling victims, training law enforcement and grand juries in rape evidence collection while volunteering with Women Together, the Battered Women's Shelter in the late seventies and early eighties. I spoke to groups and organization throughout the city on rape education at a time when victims were still being blamed. After leaving the CRCC I became Executive Director of the NAACP working with a diverse coalition of racial, religious and community organizations. I was the community liaison for the NAACP with community organizations, met with incarcerated individuals to investigate their complaints, met with CEO'S and owners of corporations and our local health care institutions to discuss their lack of diversity in employment and hiring. I know this community and have resided in it my entire life. I know and understand the plight of the man or woman on the street and can negotiate with those in the boardrooms. My board affiliations have included MADD, Hitchcock Center for Women, Professional Housing Services, Harambee: Services for Families, an adoption agency.

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

First and foremost, all that I have done during my career has prepared me for serving the people and serving on the bench. Municipal court is a court of first impression for many. Although the cases are misdemeanors I believe my approach to handling cases and defendants reduces recidivism and makes such an impression on first time offenders that the justice system does not become a revolving door for them. I am compassionate yet tough, above all else I believe everyone is entitled to procedural fairness and respect and this is the foundation on which I operate my courtroom. I believe my work at the Cleveland Rape Center equipped me with the skills to understand many of the women and men who interface with the court and are victimized. Moreover, my

life experiences, both personal and professional taught me the patience, compassion and empathy necessary to work with the mental health population, a docket I worked with for five years and presided over for three years and was instrumental in it receiving its initial certification from the Ohio Supreme Court as a Specialized Docket even though it had been in existence for more than a decade. A lifelong resident of Cleveland, I care about the community and the people in it. Finally, I am running to retain my seat as the incumbent and doing work I love.

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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